

Fraud detectives pressed for BCCI charges years ago



Ashtown: risk of tension in Asian community

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FRAUD Squad detectives investigating the £240 million collapse of Johnson Matthey Bankers over six years ago pressed for the prosecution of BCCI officials because they believed they were being obstructed in tracing funds of a businessman linked to JMB.

According to police sources, the decision not to prosecute was taken by legal advisers specialising in fraud work. The JMB cases were started by fraud experts working for the Director of Public Prosecutions, who was then Sir Thomas Hetherington. Eventually some cases were passed over to the newly

formed Serious Fraud Office. A report was submitted from the JMB detective team formed by the City of London police and Scotland Yard after officers became involved with difficulties with BCCI. The lawyers felt that there were problems in framing a charge that could be successfully prosecuted.

Detectives had considered a charge of false accounting after dealings with BCCI's main office in Leadenhall. They were certain that the businessman was using an account with the bank under a name that the bank knew. They found themselves stalled when they made approaches and the bank denied holding the assets.

The JMB enquiry was carried out on behalf of the Bank of England, which is certain to have been told of the police difficulties. The JMB case was one of several enquiries that raised questions about BCCI. Customs investigators believed that the London headquarters at one stage kept an office that dealt with between 50 and 100 secret numbered accounts.

In October 1988, customs investigators acting for the American authorities raided the Leadenhall branch in a money-laundering investigation linked to General Noriega. They recovered files involving the general and his family. After the raids, it is alleged,

BCCI officials moved the secret accounts to the Middle East.

The Noriega case is said by money-laundering investigators to have been one of half a dozen enquiries involving BCCI. One enquiry involved funds held on behalf of a major cocaine dealer.

In banking, BCCI, closed by the Bank of England on July 5, earned a reputation for specialising in clients who were "high rollers", individuals with large amounts of cash that they wanted moved hither and thither across the world.

Price Waterhouse, the accountancy firm that audited BCCI, made it agree to a change of ownership and a reorganisation only days

before it passed its accounts last year (Neil Bennett writes).

The firm told BCCI in April last year that it would not sign accounts for 1989 unless the bank investigated irregular loans used to buy BCCI shares. Twelve days later, it agreed to pass the accounts. In the intervening period, Price Waterhouse is thought to have forced BCCI to accept Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, the ruler of Abu Dhabi, as its majority shareholder. Sheikh Zayed, in turn, pledged financial support for the bank.

The government was warned yesterday that failure to widen the terms of Lord Justice Bingham's enquiry into BCCI's closure could

lead to tensions in Britain's Asian community (Robin Oakley writes). Calling for the enquiry to be held in public and empowered to make witnesses attend, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that British Asians had been especially affected by the affair.

Mr Ashdown said: "There is great concern within the Asian community that this issue is not being treated with the urgency and openness which it deserves partly because it mainly involves Asian people." Such fears, however unfounded, had to be taken into account, he said.

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UN turns the screw on Iraqi nuclear arms

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE United Nations is to consider subjecting Iraq to a draconian arms control regime that would allow inspectors to enter the country and mount spot checks whenever and wherever they liked.

Iraq may also be required to allow unprecedented monitoring of its chemical and health industries, to the extent that it would have to notify the UN within a week of any unusual outbreak of an infectious disease affecting people, animals or plants.

The proposals, in a pair of reports by UN commissions for the security council, emerged as the Bush administration used the anniversary of the invasion of Kuwait to reinforce its threat of fresh military strikes should President Saddam Hussein fail to disclose all facets of his nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programme.

Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, said in a series of television interviews yesterday that Saddam would be making a big mistake if he believed that America and its allies did not have the stom-

ach for further military action. "There's no doubt in my mind about our ability to use our military capability if we have to. And there shouldn't be any doubt in his mind about the fact that we are prepared to do that."

Saddam was still trying to save some of the infrastructure needed to produce enriched uranium or plutonium to develop a bomb, he said. "We've actually had inspectors on the scene as he has tried to hide equipment and to move it out of the site."

President Bush repeated his call for the Iraqi military to topple Saddam, and insisted that America would not resume normal relations with Iraq so long as he remained in power. "The argument isn't with the people of Iraq, the argument isn't with the other leaders, the argument is with Saddam Hussein," he told a press conference in Washington. "If the military talked him into stepping aside and getting out of there, I'd give them a real break as far as US policy goes."

Asked what he would do to force Saddam to give up weapons of mass destruction, Mr Bush said: "We keep pressing." The Senate voted overwhelmingly last night to give the president authority to use "all necessary means" to eliminate Iraq's ability to produce such weapons.

An International Atomic Energy Agency team is in Iraq tracking down elements of its nuclear programme and another will today begin searching for biological weapons. Now the security council is to consider a call for inspectors to be given wide-ranging powers to ensure that Iraq does not build up its arsenal again.

The demand comes in re-

ports from the atomic energy agency and from the UN special commission charged with monitoring Iraq's chemical, biological and ballistic weapons. They say UN inspectors should be able to make spot checks, unhindered, whenever they like.

They should be allowed to copy any data, videotape any material, interview any official, take samples of any kind and remove them from the country for testing. UN personnel should be permitted to use their own aircraft and to communicate from any place in Iraq by radio, satellite or any other means, even in code, the reports say.

Baghdad would also have to declare any site being used to produce vaccines and notify within a week all infectious diseases "that deviate or appear to deviate from the normal pattern".

The reports go on to call for Iraq to have to declare all missiles with a range of 45 miles - it is banned from acquiring ballistic weapons with a range of more than 90 miles - and to provide an inventory of all nuclear material, facilities and installations. It would have to give six months' notice before building any new facility.

Western diplomats said yesterday that it would probably take the security council several weeks to approve the plan. The five permanent members received a draft this week and are all expected to approve. In the full council, Cuba and Yemen are thought likely to oppose it.

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Kuwaiti anniversary, page 6

Baker fails to win Palestinian support

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, pressed home his latest success in winning Israeli acceptance of his peace proposals by telling Palestinian leaders that they had become the only regional group who had still not agreed to attend the regional peace conference in October.

Mr Baker had, hoped, in four hours of talks at the American consulate in Jerusalem, to bring enough international pressure to bear on

the Palestinian leaders to win their acceptance of his plan as he had the previous day with Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli leader. But his discussions were inconclusive and led only to fresh demands from the Palestinian side for American guarantees on the substance of the conference. At the talks were Faisal Hussein, Continued on page 20, col 4

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A saint in the making for the royal family

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince and Princess of Wales could one day have a saint in the family, it was disclosed yesterday. The great-granddaughter of the Princess of Wales has taken the first formal step towards beatification.

Fr Ignatius Spencer, the youngest son of the second Lord Spencer, First Lord of the Admiralty, and Lavinia, daughter of the first Earl of Lucan, shocked his aristocratic family when he converted to Roman Catholicism in the last century. The Catholic newspaper *The Universe* disclosed yesterday that the official cause to make Fr Spencer a saint has been formally introduced in Rome. The Vatican has authorised a thorough

investigation into his life to establish his holiness. This will now begin in the Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool, where his body lies. For the cause to proceed towards beatification and ultimate canonisation, proof of at least two miracles will be needed.

Fr Mark White, parish priest of St Anne and Blessed Dominic, St Helens, Merseyside, the monastery where Fr Spencer was rector when he died, said that any claims of miraculous cures could not be investigated until the paperwork needed to prove holiness had been completed. Another priest connected with the cause said the process could take 50 years.

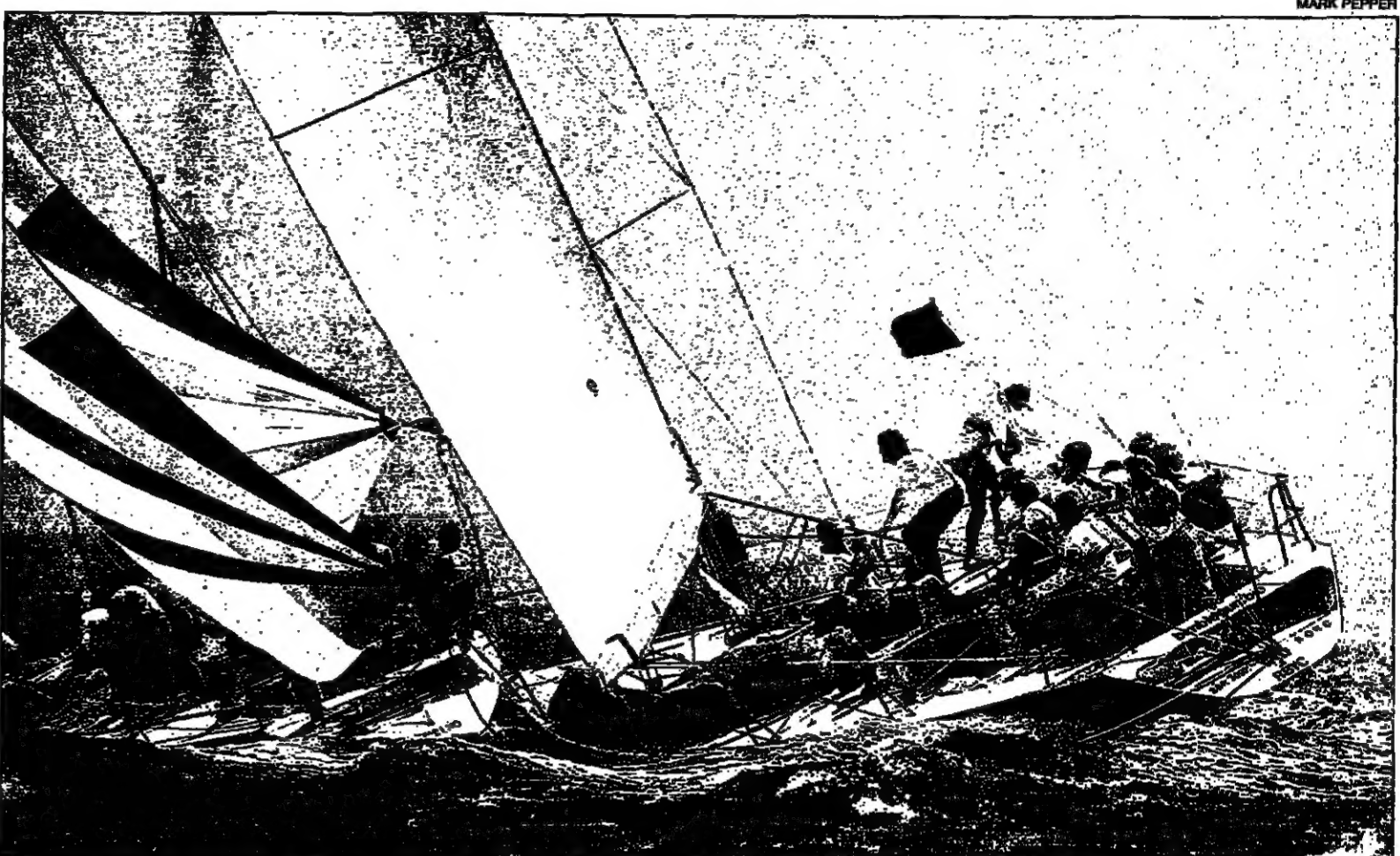
In 1830 the Hon George Spencer, born in the Admiralty in London in 1799 and educated at Eton College and Cam-

bridge, abandoned a promising career as an Anglican clergyman in a country vicarage near Althorp for the embattled English Catholic community. As a young man, during his grand tour of Europe, he was profoundly influenced by the last scene of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, which he saw in Paris, and in which the dissolute Don Giovanni is seized and carried off to Hell.

He left the Anglican church a few years before it was shaken out of its complacency by the Oxford Movement and the evangelical revival.

Throughout his life, Fr Spencer emphasised the importance of spiritual renewal, prayer and conversion to Christ.

Clifford Longley, page 8



Admirals of the fleet: the crew of Bumblebee keeping a close watch on their rivals on board Caruso in the Admiral's Cup. Report, page 33

Punters face levy to stake arts fund

Football pools enthusiasts are being asked to pay extra to fund the arts and sport. John Goodbody reports

The seven million people who each week bet on the football pools with Littlewoods are being asked for extra stake money to help set up the Foundation for Sport and the Arts - although it had been thought that the 2.25 per cent reduction in pools duty announced in the Budget would be sufficient to fund the new body.

It also emerged yesterday that two national museums have acquired gaming licences in order to benefit from a lottery being launched next week. The Tate gallery and Victoria and Albert museum are among 25 arts organisations which stand to gain up to £45,000 each from "Money Match", the second lottery series launched by UK Charity Lotteries and the first to feature the arts so predominantly.

Littlewoods's move is already upsetting punters, who complain that they have not been consulted, and that the foundation, which is expected to give £65 million each year to sport and the arts, should be financed from the profits of Littlewoods, Vernons and Continued page 20, col 2

Bank threat alarms ministers

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE decision of two high street banks to cut back lending to small businesses has alarmed the government. Ministers will take care to ensure that banks meet codes of practice agreed last month with the Chancellor.

Ministerial concern was raised by yesterday's announcement by the Midland Bank that it would be more cautious in lending to small businesses. Barclays announced a similar cut earlier in the week.

Downing Street and the Treasury made plain yesterday that the review in six months' time of the banks' behaviour towards small businesses will be more than a cosmetic exercise.

The Tories are looking to the small business sector to help lead the economy out of recession in the run-up to an election next year. They believe that the banks are making scapegoats of reputable small businesses to excuse imprudent lending in the boom years.

Last month's Treasury and Bank of England investigation of the high street banks concluded that there was no cartel. But the Chancellor

referred to the Office of Fair Trading complaints that banks had increased their charges by up to 55 per cent.

The banks agreed to establish a code of conduct making plain their charges and penalties. Ministers are determined that they should be kept up to the mark on that in the review.

The Midland's decision comes after provisions of £530 million on bad debts made it plunge to a £71 million loss in the first half of the year. More than half its bad loans were to small and medium businesses.

Brian Pearce, the chief executive, said that the bank would lend less to small companies at higher interest rates and backed by larger security. "In the early years of economic recovery we are going to be a lot more careful about who we lend money to."

Banks will demand that company directors put more of their own money into a venture and pay higher interest. Mr Pearce said yesterday that the economy was "bumping along the bottom" of an unexpectedly severe recession. Asked if he was optimistic about an upturn, he

replied: "No, we are not, I'm afraid. We see no upturn in any part of the economy."

Mr Pearce said that his gloomy view, which contrasted with Norman Lamont's weekend prediction of "dramatic progress", reflected the bank's big lending losses and its business contacts.

Mr Pearce's comments coincided with new government figures which confirmed that

an economic recovery was unlikely to begin before the autumn (Anatole Kaletsky writes). The Central Statistical Office said its index of shorter leading indicators, designed to signal turning points in the economy about six months in advance, fell again in June, after increasing marginally the previous month.

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Navy's latest £405m submarine could not fire torpedoes

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Royal Navy's latest class of submarine went to sea three years late and unable to fire torpedoes. It will take until mid-1993 to get the four Upholder-class submarines into full working order, according to the all-party Commons select committee on defence.

The navy compromised on the design of the £405 million Upholder, built at Barrow-in-Furness by VSEL, and Unseen, Ursula and Unicorn, being built at Birkenhead by Cammell Laird for a total of £390 million, in the hope of encouraging export sales of the new submarine. So far no overseas orders have been won.

The type-3400, diesel-electric SSK boats, replacing the Oberon class submarines, are the first new-style conventional submarines to be built in the United Kingdom for 30 years. They are

designed to be faster and quieter and to require smaller crews.

Upholder was accepted into the fleet in 1990, three years late, but will be taken out of service later this year to rectify faults in its weapons handling and discharge system. Unseen and Ursula will dock later for modifications.

The faults meant that Upholder took to sea with its torpedo tubes locked shut and it has only a "limited capacity for firing torpedoes" following "delicate drills on board".

The defence committee's latest report says that it seems likely that Upholder, which will formally complete its fleet weapons acceptance trials late next year, will prove to be an excellent submarine. The committee urges the government to build six, not four, SSKs.

It admits that its report has the benefit of hindsight and says that many of the



All at sea: HMS Upholder, like its companions, will not work properly until 1993

lessons from the Upholder experience appear to have been learned. But the MPs are sharply critical on a number of points.

They argue that the design arrangements contained the "classic ingredients" for problems. It was a cost-plus contract. Responsibility for integrating the vessel, weapons and equipment lay

with the defence ministry rather than with the contractor. Project management was spread between several parts of the ministry and it had a lower priority than the Vanguard project, in which the contractor was involved at the same time.

The report says: "It would not be acceptable for MoD to place a future

warship design contract which left the ministry responsible for overall integration of the vessel with its weapons and major equipments."

The committee believes that there should have been a single ministry manager for the project and comments: "It is unsatisfactory that MoD should apparently accept 'first of class' delays and extra costs as more or less inevitable." It urges the ministry to review its attitude toward investing in shore-based prototypes.

The MPs add: "It is surprising... that MoD does not appear to have undertaken any review of the Upholder design-setting process to see if there are lessons to be learned which would be relevant to other new equipment programmes."

Noting the lack of export orders, the MPs say: "It is clearly not in the best

interests of either the Royal Navy or industry for the Royal Navy to compromise on its design requirements in the interests of promoting exports and then for the resultant equipment not to sell."

Upholder entered service in December last year, some three years later than planned. The committee says that problems on the prototype systems accounted for 15 months of that time. A further 14 months' delay was occasioned by changes in requirements, minor design changes and weather disruption of sea trials and another 14-month delay was caused by industrial disputes and "shipbuilder performance shortfalls".

Procurement of Upholder class submarines (Stationery Office, £9.80)

Successful motor chain told to stop selling cars

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

EXECUTIVES running a chain of more than 100 motor dealers has been told to stop selling cars because they are too successful.

The Colt Car Company, which sells Japanese-made Mitsubishi models, has to reduce sales by 20 per cent, which means that dealers could run out of cars and have nothing to sell in the first two months of 1992. They will then have to sell demonstration cars from the showroom window or add orders to a waiting list.

Colt is the first company to fall victim to the strict quota agreements which govern the import of Japanese cars. Under the voluntary agreement, Japanese car makers can take no more than 11 per cent of the British market. A

deal agreed this week also limits its sales of imports throughout Europe. Colt seems to have suffered quickly from Japan's desire not to offend the British government and also to spread sales evenly across the markets of the European Community.

Mitsubishi has been told by JAMA, the Japanese motor trade association and the equivalent of Britain's Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, that its sales must be reduced by about 1,000 cars to meet quota limits after a mid-year review in Tokyo. Other importers of Japanese cars say that they have not been informed yet of the quota review.

However, Colt executives say that they are being penalised for their success at a time when the rest of the industry is struggling. David Miles, the company's spokesman, said last night: "It is all totally illogical. We are having to pull back because of the uncertainty over what now happens."

Shipments in the autumn will be cancelled and Colt is scrapping plans to open eight new showrooms because it will only have enough cars to satisfy demand from its existing dealers this year.

Colt's sales would probably have been reduced this year from the 14,500 registrations of 1990 because of the recession. However, its share of the market has risen from little over half of one per cent to three-quarters of one per cent, in concert with similar rises for Daihatsu, Honda, Isuzu, Mazda and Toyota.

The growing popularity of these Japanese makes of car was not thought to be enough to offset the huge losses sustained by Nissan, whose UK sales could be almost halved this year, mainly as a result of the dispute between the manufacturer and Nissan UK, its independent distributor. Nissan UK this week lost its fight to retain its distributorship in the face of Nissan's decision to set up its own showroom chain.

As a result, Nissan UK became the latest company to pull out of the London Motorfair, due to be held at Earl Court next month. The distributor had been planning to show 20 Nissan cars but will not now have any cars to sell.

Advanced calculator banned in exams

By JOHN SHAW

CAMBRIDGE university has banned advanced calculators from the examination room because it feels they can make it easier for the undergraduates.

Students using such high-tech equipment at some examinations are said to be turning into more a test of the calculator's ability than the student's. Officials have decided to make changes as from the new term in October.

In future, first-year students in economics, politics, engineering, biology, land economy, natural sciences and medicine will have to use a calculator of the university's choice in their end-of-year examinations. Faculties plan to sell the Casio FX-100Ds to every student at £10 each.

No other model will be acceptable for examinations. Each will bear an official identification mark to make sure students do not take more advanced models into the examination room.

Dick Holmes, secretary of the university board of examinations, said: "When you are invigilating you just cannot tell at a glance - and that is all you get - what calculator a student is using, and that is one of the problems. After discussion, we decided the best thing to do was to purchase a machine the university regards as suitable, with a restricted range of functions which would suit, say, economics and land economy on the one hand, through to engineering on the other."

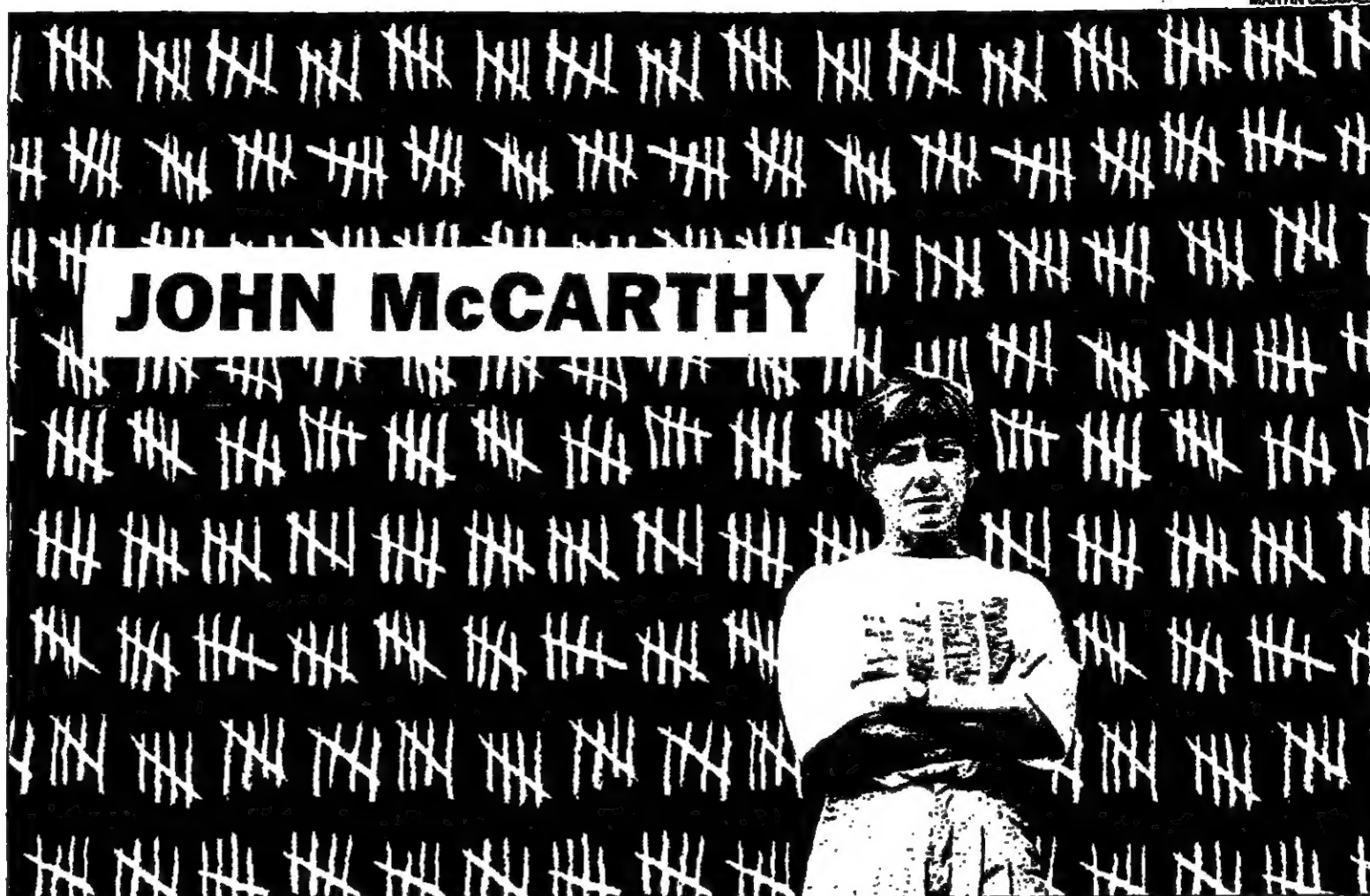
Mr Holmes said that Bath university was already issuing approved calculators just before examinations begin. However, Cambridge thought it better for the students to use the specified machine throughout the year, thereby having the chance to get used to it, he added.

By ALAN HAMILTON

REMEMBER Bobby Crush? Got to number 37 in the charts in 1972. And Peters and Lee, who had a No 1 with *Welcome Home* round about 1973? The trouble is, though, they just do not pack them in like they used to.

Bridlington, Humberside, nearly witnessed the end of its end-of-the-pier show this week. Attendances at the evening performances of Crush, Peters and Lee and an assortment of supporting acts were barely a third of last year's box office. As a result, the show was on the verge of closure - until the council stepped in.

KJ Entertainment, the promoters, asked East Yorkshire borough council to subsidise the show for the rest of its run. However, it declined to do so and instead reviewed the programme. Bobby Crush survives in his Monday and Tuesday spots, and Peters and Lee will still appear on Wednesdays and



Still counting: Jill Morrell, founder of the Friends of John McCarthy, in front of one of the posters being placed throughout London in a publicity campaign launched yesterday by supporters of the television journalist held captive in Beirut. The posters bear tally symbols and the message "John McCarthy still counts". He has been held for 1,937 days and the group considers his release "crucially

overdue". Miss Morrell said that she hoped that the campaign would "remind people that John has been left to sit in a Beirut basement for five years", adding: "We are hoping that the governments concerned

will sit down and resolve the problem of the hostages." The British government was showing increased concern, but "real determination" to resolve the problem was needed, she said.

Workshy ants enjoy lazy daze

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

"GO TO the ant, thou slug-gard; consider her ways and be wise," advises the Bible's *Proverbs*. Scientists who followed its advice found that the ant spends 20 per cent of its time being busy and the rest, well, sluggish.

The record for animal slothfulness may well be held by the spadefoot toad of the deserts of southwestern America which spends 11 months underground doing nothing.

The study of how animals spend their time - called time budget analysis - has shown that sometimes they keep still to save energy, sometimes to digest food. By not moving they can hide or stay cool.

Being lazy is almost universal, according to Joan Herberts of Vermont university. The howling monkey, she found, spent 70 per cent of its time resting, while the gorilla was motionless only half the time. Biologists regard these figures not as evidence of laziness but as well adapted animals are.

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Hostages meet to recall Iraq ordeal

By RAY CLANCY

BRITISH hostages held in hotels and at strategic sites in Iraq during the Gulf war held a reunion last night and sent a message of thanks to Edward Heath, the MP and former prime minister, who negotiated their release.

They travelled from Scotland, Devon, Luton and Canterbury to the Croydon Park Hotel in southeast London to talk about their ordeal and how they have managed since returning to Britain.

Heat, lack of food, tension and not knowing what was going to happen were aspects of the ordeal that were relived as tears mingled with smiles and glasses clinked in toasts to the future and to peace in the Middle East.

Peter Stubbs, a former hostage, organised the evening to keep in touch with fellow hostages who became his friends. Almost a year to the day since his detention in Kuwait City as he went in search of supplies, he recalled the event. He had been working at the Mesila Beach Hotel, Kuwait, when the Iraqis invaded. He and others went

into hiding, venturing on to the streets only for shopping. "Three of us were out seeking some essential supplies when we were stopped and arrested at gunpoint," he said. "We were held for a few hours and then taken to Baghdad."

Mr Stubbs was held at a power station on the outskirts of Baghdad and at one in northern Iraq. "I suppose it was the uncertainty that was worst," he said. "But we held together, we kept each other going and became firm friends - after all, we were spending 24 hours a day in the same confined space for months."

Mr Stubbs was eventually released in December, when Saddam Hussein let his "guests", as he referred to hostages, go free.

Many hostages and their families are suffering financial and psychological problems. A survey of the 1,000 members of Hostages of the Middle East has found that 75 per cent have not received wages due from employment in Kuwait. Some due average £2,000.

Arms check, page 1

Silence ended on Britons' torture

By LIN JENKINS

AS DETAILS of the physical torture and psychological abuse suffered by American prisoners of war at the hands of their Iraqi captors emerged before a panel in Washington, military sources in the UK confirmed that British servicemen had been similarly treated.

Colonel Bill Jordan of the US Army has told the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, which is assessing the evidence for possible war crime charges, that all American POWs had been abused.

Fears that Britons had been mistreated surfaced early in the war, when Flight Lieutenants John Peters and Adrian Nichol were paraded on Iraqi television looking battered and bruised. A colleague in the Tornado aircrew said: "It was obvious to all of us that they had been beaten."

The defence ministry said that the 12 British POWs - seven RAF crew and five men from special forces - had been "told not to discuss their treatment. All had been offered psychological help in overcoming stress arising

from such trauma, a spokesman said.

"It is for legal reasons that they were told not to discuss what happened. There has been a great deal of talk about the possibility of war crime trials, and if there is an investigation into criminal activities it could be prejudiced by talking out of turn. But none wishes to talk about it anyway."

It is understood that the torture of the RAF airmen was mainly limited to beatings. Reports of electric-shock torture were not as widespread as those from American POWs. An RAF instructor in resistance to interrogation, who did not wish to be named, said all servicemen were prepared for the prospect of being tortured after capture. "I don't think it comes as any great surprise that POWs were tortured."

Douglas Brand, the British businessman released from an Iraqi prison last month, has given a graphic account of how he was repeatedly tortured at the hands of his guards.

Nurse is attacked in office

An enquiry into security at a hospital is under way after a night nurse alone on duty was knocked out and tied up early yesterday.

An internal review has been launched at Christie hospital, south Manchester, and William Waldegrave, the health secretary, said he would look at the results, study any implications and "see whether there is anything further that can be done".

Teresa McFarland, aged 35, was on duty in Ward 7 - a 28-bed, ground floor "hostel" used for overnight stays by patients travelling long distances. She was attacked at about 2.30am yesterday after going to investigate a noise. Finding nothing, she returned to the sister's office and was sitting with her back to the door when a blow on the back of her head knocked her out.

She came round ten minutes later to find herself tied to a chair with wool. There were no signs of a forced entry. She was last night recovering at home.

Dispute over QE2 crew

Reports that Cunard was to replace the remaining British crew members of the liner QE2 with Filipinos sparked a political dispute last night but were dismissed by a company spokesman. He said negotiations would begin at an early date to regularise the position of 140 of the crew of 1,017.

He refused to comment on the nature of the negotiations but they are believed to concern transferring the 140 to individual contracts, as is the case with the remainder of the crew of this and many other Cunard vessels.

Kidnappers get ransom

A businessman handed over a large sum of money to kidnappers yesterday after four armed men burst into his home at Colchester, Essex, on Thursday night and carried off his wife and two teenage sons, police said.

The wife and two sons were driven more than 30 miles to a wooded area in Suffolk where they were held hostage. The husband was taken to another part of Suffolk. The wife and sons were able to contact police at 3.30pm. The husband telephoned about an hour later.

Sea tributes

Divers using two mini-submarines are to mark the graves of more than 1,000 seamen who died when two British warships sank 50 years ago. White ensigns will be placed on the wreckage of HMS Prince of Wales and Repulse, lying 200ft deep off the Malaysian coast, where they were sunk by Japanese aircraft in 1941. The £30,000 operation will be funded from private contributions.

Labour apology

Labour has apologised to Billy Hayes, a union branch secretary in Liverpool, for mistakenly suspending him from allegedly supporting Lesley Mahmood in the Walton by-election. Mr Hayes, a party member for 15 years, had supported Peter Kilfoyle, the official candidate. Joyce Gould, party organiser, said the person who said Mr Hayes had supported Miss Mahmood had withdrawn his statement.

£9m will

Denys Sutton, the art critic who died in January, aged 73, left his entire estate worth more than £9 million to his third wife, Cynthia, in his will published yesterday. Mr Sutton, former editor of the art magazine *Apollon*, left £9,108,832 net.

Lord Kaberry of Adel, who as Donald Kaberry, was Conservative MP under Tory leader from Churchill to Thatcher, left £284,013 net.



Show must go on: Bobby Crush and Peters and Lee are reprieved at Bridlington

Thursdays but are axed on Fridays to make way for a local talent contest. The Saturday hypnotist survives but the Sunday ventriloquist is banished.

Richard Primmer, assistant director of tourism for Bridlington, said: "It's vital to have something for people to do in the evening. Heavy drinking falls after a while."

The sharp drop in box office receipts was chiefly due to the recession, he said, but was also an indication of changing holiday patterns. Nowadays, more people took trips to seaside resorts rather than staying for a whole fortnight, he added.

However, Nick Thomas, an agent based in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, and a leading producer of seaside shows, said yesterday: "Bobby Crush and Peters and Lee are high-priced

acts, but they're not exactly crowd pullers. They should never have been booked for Bridlington. It's not a show town and its entertainment has always been very much category three."

Category three is, in professional show business terms, as far from Sinatra as it is possible to get without succumbing to amateur talent.

Peters elsewhere, however, are riding the recession much more successfully, according to Mr Thomas. "Take Blackpool, England's Las Vegas with curry sauce. Business is holding up there extremely well this year. But it is a special case; the illuminations give it an unusually long season and its excellent motorway access means it attracts the day visitors."

People will go to Blackpool just to see a show. Mr Thomas's principal Blackpool production this year, called *Rock With Laughter*, features Seventies pop music loosely tied together with a slender story line. He said: "Television has killed people's attention span. You can't just let an act loose on the stage for an hour and a quarter like you used to do. You have to produce it, package it, dress it up."

He expects his show to gross more than £1 million during its 17-week run, although he has already noticed that spending on

programmes, drinks and snacks in the theatre is down on last year, even if ticket sales are not.

Peter Hepple, editor of *The Stage*, said yesterday that he knew of no seaside shows outside Bridlington which had closed this summer, although runs were much shorter than they used to be. "At many of the smaller resorts now, the council have to underwrite the show and guarantee the artists' fees before a promoter will even consider coming in." One such production was *Chess*, the musical at Paignton, Devon, costing almost £100,000 a week to stage.

There are mixed reports from other resorts. Jim Davidson is said to be struggling in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, but the 'Baron Knights' are doing even better business than last year at Weymouth, Dorset. Lovely act, the Baron Knights; didn't they get to number 45 in 1980 with *Just A Giggle*?

Relatives of Thames riverboat disaster victims are outraged by 'denial of natural justice'

Marchioness manslaughter case may be ended by DPP

By LIN JENKINS

RELATIVES of the 51 people who died in the Marchioness pleasure boat tragedy say they are being denied natural justice after yesterday's disclosure by the director of public prosecutions that he intends to take over and end a private prosecution for manslaughter unless substantial new evidence has been found.

Sir Allan Green, QC, wrote to solicitors acting for Ivor Glogg, whose wife Ruth Hadden died in the tragedy, asking them to forward all the evidence they had to support their case against the owners of the dredger Bowbelle and four of the company's senior managers. He said that in the absence of any substantial new evidence he would use his powers to take over the case and end it before it went to court later this year.

Louise Christian, Mr Glogg's solicitor, said that such action would be unprecedented. "These powers are only rarely used and in cases where someone is sick or elderly or if the prosecution constitutes a harassment."

"If he believes we may not have sufficient evidence, and we believe we do, then he should wait until the committal. If we fail to produce a proper case there, it will not be committed to the crown court and that will be the end of the matter."

Mr Glogg said that he was outraged by the letter. "This is the only disaster where there has been no airing in public of the circumstances. I would not have had to bring this action if the CPS [Crown Prosecution Service] had done their job."

attempt in the High Court by another bereaved relative to seek judicial review into the decision failed, although the judge, Mr Justice Nolan, said that it was entirely understandable for the relatives to want a public enquiry.

Ms Christian said: "We have the feeling that there is a reluctance by the authorities in this country to take action against corporate concerns and make them accountable when there has been a disaster. If this case is not allowed to be brought, and it is a serious and substantial prosecution based on evidence we did not have before, then it has serious implications for those involved in other disasters."

Mr Glogg was granted summonses at Bow Street magistrates court last week against South Coast Shipping Ltd of Southampton, Robert Samuel, the general manager, Edward Greenwood, the superintendent, Peter Butcher, operations manager, and Brian Darwell, the marine manager. Mr Glogg has spent £20,000 so far in bringing the case and estimates that by the time it reaches committal he will have spent £70,000.

"The costs could be much greater because if I lose I may well have to pay the defendants' legal costs. For the Crown Prosecution Service to threaten to take it over and stop it is very high handed," Mr Glogg said.

Billy Gorman, whose sister-in-law perished when the two boats collided on the Thames two years ago, said: "It would seem that there is a conspiracy at the very highest level to prevent us from knowing what happened. It would be disgraceful not to allow this case to continue." Eileen Dallaglio, whose daughter Francesca,



The Marchioness, which sank after a collision with the dredger Bowbelle, and, clockwise from bottom left, Douglas Henderson, captain of the Bowbelle, Ivor Glogg, husband of a victim, Louise Christian, solicitor for the victims' families, and Billy Gorman, whose sister-in-law died

aged 19, was the youngest victim among the 51 dead, said: "After all this time we are still not allowed to know what went on."

Ms Christian said she does not disclose the nature of the evidence on which they proposed to rely, and could not say whether such information had been before Sir Allan when he had made his decision.

Sir Allan has powers under the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 to take over the case and drop it. The act also allows him to take over a case and continue it, which often occurs when a private criminal prosecution has been committed by the magistrates to the crown court.

A spokesman for the Crown Prosecution Service said that

two private prosecutions had been taken over and stopped by the DPP before reaching committal. One was where a man awaiting trial on charges of perverting the course of justice tried to prosecute one of the witnesses for perjury, and the other, in 1978, was when a convicted robber took out a private prosecution against a witness against whom the crown had dropped charges when he agreed to give evidence for the crown.

Ms Christian has written to Sir Allan saying that she is astonished by his request and does not intend to hand over the papers by the deadline of the end of next week. "It is a fundamental right of citizens to bring a private prosecution and we intend to continue," she said.

Timetable of two-year saga

THE key dates in the story of the Marchioness sinking in 1989 are:

Aug 20: Marchioness sinks

Aug 21: Michael Portillo, transport minister, announces enquiry by Marine Accident Investigation Bureau, rejects calls from bereaved for public enquiry

Aug 22: New safety measures implemented on Thames including head counts and emergency briefings

Aug 22-26: First inquests opened and adjourned by Westminster coroner Dr Paul Knapman

March 20, 1990: Part of Marine Accident Investigation Bureau report leaked

March 21: Transport depart-

ment announces new safety measures on Thames

April 6: Police report on disaster delivered to Director of Public Prosecutions

April 23: Inquest resumed

April 26: DPP announces Douglas Henderson, master of Bowbelle, to be charged with alleged breach of his statutory duty under 1988 Merchant Shipping Act. Dr Knapman adjourns inquest because of pending prosecution

Oct 31: Mr Justice Nolan rejects application to High Court by bereaved husband for leave to seek judicial review over DPP decision not to bring charges for manslaughter. He sympathises with families' wish to have a

public enquiry

April 4: Trial of Mr Henderson begins at Old Bailey

April 14: Jury unable to reach verdict and discharged by judge

July 17: Second trial of Mr Henderson begins at St Alban's crown court

July 22: Chief stipendiary magistrate Sir David Hopkin issues summons against owners of Bowbelle and four of company's employees in Ivor Glogg's private criminal prosecution for manslaughter

July 31: Jury unable to reach verdict in second trial and Crown states it will no longer pursue the case. Mr Justice Boreham enters a verdict of not guilty.

Teenage swindler gets four years

By ROBIN YOUNG

A TEENAGER who posed as a City stockbroker in a £466,000 mortgage fraud was sentenced to four years' youth custody by the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Mark Acklom, who was 16 when he carried out a series of theft and deceptions, was described as "utterly selfish and completely ruthless" by Judge Brian Pryor, QC. Acklom spent £11,000 after stealing his father's credit card, swindled a former teacher out of £13,000, and ran up a £34,000 bill with a private charter jet company.

He lavished money on girlfriends and obtained £446,168 from the Leeds Permanent building society to buy a house in Dulwich, south London. He cheated investors by posing as a £200,000 a year investment broker in the City of London, and continued swindling by forging a cheque to hire a BMW car, even while he was on bail.

Before announcing the sentence, the judge told Acklom: "You show the typical symptoms of a conman. You spun lies which were quite clearly adapted to suit the circumstances. That you are utterly selfish is certainly true and you were completely ruthless about the effect you were having on the victims of your crimes."

Judge Pryor said that Acklom, now aged 18, had told lies after lies in order to get money "so you could squander it on self-indulgent pleasures and in gratifying your gambler's desires for speculation".

The judge dismissed the plea in mitigation which defence counsel had advanced, arguing that Acklom was out of touch with reality.

Dealer jailed for forgery

STEPHEN Francis, a dealer aged 27 who was at one time personally responsible for more than a fifth of New Zealand's national debt, was jailed yesterday for forgery.

A jury at the Central Criminal Court convicted Francis, of Pimlico, central London, on two charges of using false documents to obtain credit. The jury could not agree on eight other fraud charges which were left on the court file. Francis was ordered to pay £50,000 costs.

The court was told that Francis had forged documents from a US financial institution which enabled him to trade on the futures market as though he was their agent. When the futures Francis had invested in were cashed, the bankers he dealt through were left with a £6 million loss. Had Francis cashed his assets while the market was with him he would have been a multi-millionaire, the court was told.

The trader was given almost unlimited credit on the New Zealand futures market and invested nearly £250 million pounds, a fifth of the country's national debt. Francis was regarded as one of the City's most successful young dealers. He worked for Barclays Bank in Hong Kong, New Zealand and London before setting himself up in business.

Outlook on grouse is mixed

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

PROSPECTS for the Glorious Twelfth, the opening of the grouse shooting season a week on Monday, look better than last year on most English moors and in the Scottish borders, but are poorer in the Highlands, according to the Game Conservancy Trust.

With grouse counts completed at more than 70 locations, the conservancy's scientists say that birds have bred well in the Pennines despite cold weather earlier this year. Further north the picture is more variable and a combination of factors has reduced the breeding population in Scotland, Peter Hudson, of the trust's upland research unit, says. On drier moors, heather failed to provide hens with early food.

Simulated shoots, page 12

THE SUNDAY TIMES

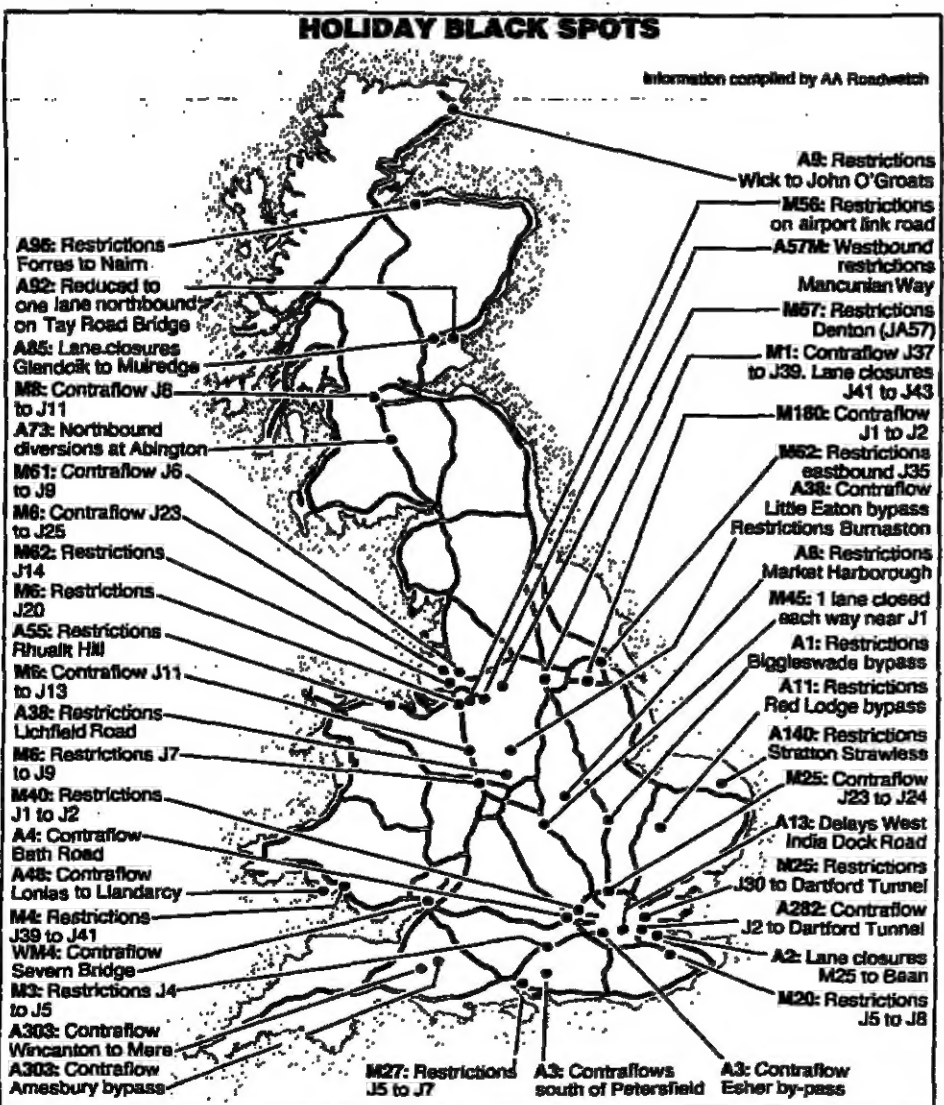
Two faces of tyranny

Both Stalin and Hitler were outsiders who started without advantage. The formative experience of Hitler's life was the first world war. For Stalin it was his apprenticeship in



an underground revolutionary party and the long periods he spent in tsarist prisons and in exile. By 1918 both had acquired a fixed set of beliefs which were never disturbed by intellectual doubt.

Alan Bullock, beginning exclusive extracts from his new book, *The Sunday Times* tomorrow



Slow going: motorists will have an obstacle course to contend with on many roads this weekend. Holidaymakers bound for the West Country may be affected by the contrail system on the A303 between Winchester, Somerset, and Mera, Wiltshire, while those using the A3 to the south coast will find contrailflows on the Esher bypass in Surrey and south of Petersfield, Hampshire. There are roadworks on both carriageways of the Dartford tunnel and improvements are being carried out to the Severn bridge.

Welsh plead to blow own trumpet

By TIM JONES

AS THE great annual gathering of Joneses, Robertses and Williamses begins today, and Welsh men and women meet within a hazy song of Ofa's Dyke to celebrate their national citizenship, officials of the Wales Tourist Board claim that Whitehall is preventing them from enticing more foreign visitors to the land of their fathers.

Now the huge earth fortification built by the king of Mercia to keep the Celtic tribes at bay has all but disappeared the Welsh complain that the law is discriminating against their efforts to introduce the splendours of Snowdon and the delights of the Gower to travellers from overseas. They say that because they



are prevented by the Development of Tourism Act, 1969, from advertising the principality abroad, many potential tourists think the land is knee-deep in coal, populated by arsonists or, worse, they are unaware of

its existence. To try to end what he considers an injustice, Prys Edwards, chairman of the tourist board, is pressing David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, to change the law and allow Wales to blow its own trumpet. The legislation was amended in 1984 to allow Scotland to market its own banks and braves in foreign fields.

Mr Edwards said: "It's ridiculous that only the British Tourist Authority (BTA) can promote Wales abroad while the English and Scottish boards market themselves direct."

Last year, Wales tapped only 1.7 per cent of the £7.7 billion foreign market and only 3.7 per cent of foreign tourists coming to Britain

Imitation may be a sign of future achievement

John O'Leary reports on current research into the earliest signs of high intelligence

BABIES who imitate accurately and regularly reach successfully for objects could be demonstrating the first signs of exceptional levels of achievement in later life.

Although the testing of intelligence at an early age remains primitive, researchers believe that, before they reach the age of two, children already have the potential for high achievement. Joan Freeman, a London university lecturer, told the world congress on gifted and talented children, held in The Hague, that intelligence might be established by the age of three to four months.

Dr Freeman, president of the European Council for High Ability, was the director of a 15-year study of gifted children in Britain. She told the conference: "My overwhelming conclusion... is that it is never too soon to start helping children develop their abilities."

The length of time babies can remember things at two to four months has been identified as one measure of development, while the period over which they can pay attention to something they find stimulating is said to account for about a quarter of the variations in subsequent IQ scores. Signs of potential among slightly older babies are more easily noticed. High achievers in Dr Freeman's study often showed early signs of exceptional concentration.

memory and talking. Parents can influence their babies even before they are born, Dr Freeman believes, but discovering how various forms of parental behaviour affect different kinds of babies remains a formidable task. Speaking and listening to babies and helping them practise basic tasks are among the accepted forms of assistance.

She said: "Much of a child's intellectual future can be enhanced by stimulation and interaction with language — not just in passing, but systematically." Starting from

birth, parents should help their children to achieve goals and acquire knowledge, especially in the development of language.

Psychologists differ on the age by which the most gifted 3 per cent of the population has developed its key attributes. James Webb, of Wright State university, Ohio, one of the leaders in the field, thinks that five or six is a more realistic age for assessment. He said the most gifted children are likely to have some of the following characteristics in pre-school years: early speaking; strong curiosity; good memory; an unusual sense of humour, sometimes using puns; dismantling and putting things together in unusual ways; a penchant for organising others, often in complicated games; imaginary playmates; and teaching themselves to read. About one in five also needs significantly less sleep than average.

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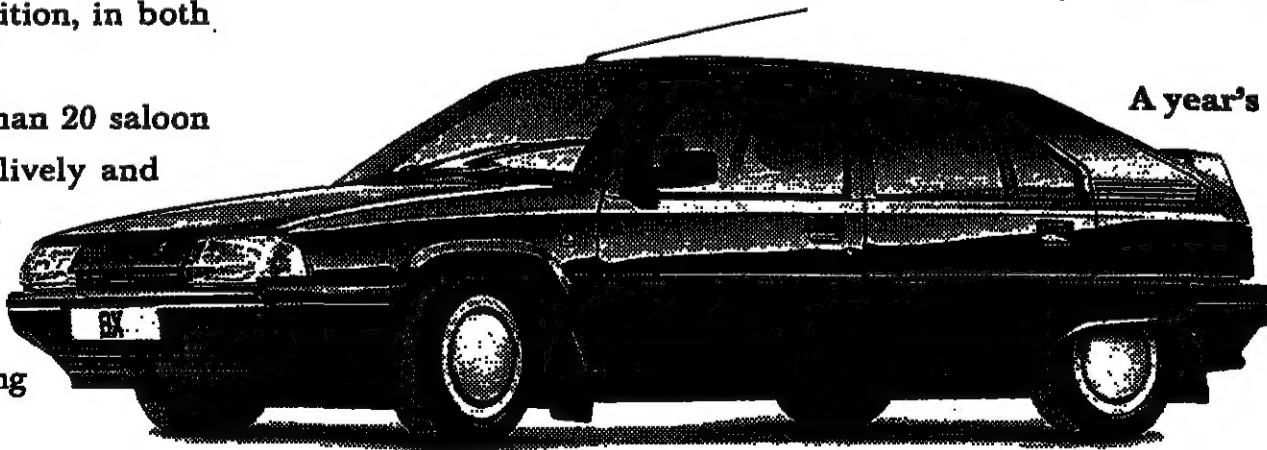
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Report to answer why Chapeltown disturbance went unchallenged for four hours

Police order enquiry into looting spree by Leeds youths

By JAMIE DETTMER

A SENIOR police officer is to investigate a disturbance this week in which about 100 youths rampaged through the Chapeltown district of Leeds, damaging a social club and looting shops. West Yorkshire's police authority was told yesterday.

Police left the mob unchallenged for nearly four hours and turned out in force only when the trouble was over and the looters had dispersed with stolen video tapes and stocks of drink. The investigating officer will report on why police failed to respond to 999 calls and requests for help from local shopkeepers whose goods were being stolen.

Peter Nobes, the chief constable, told the authority yesterday that several people had been arrested after the disturbance, which happened in the early hours on Monday. He said that a team of detectives had been formed to try to identify those who had carried out the looting.

According to authority members, Mr Nobes admitted that police had made mistakes. Neil Taggart, a Labour councillor in Chapeltown, said: "Local people are pleased that the police are apologetic, but now want an explanation."

Residents of Chapeltown, which has a reputation for

trouble, were asking yesterday how the disturbance had come about and why the police had not challenged the looters. Andras Bocskai, steward at the Latvian social club, which was among the premises looted, asked: "Why? Why did the riot happen? I don't know."

The police failure to take prompt and effective action when the mob was damaging shops and the social club was particularly bewildering. Many fear that Chapeltown has become a no-go area for a police force fearful of provoking a full-scale riot. They are also worried that the increased tension in the area spells trouble for the carnival later this month, which last year saw three people shot in an apparent drug-gang dispute.

The disorder may not have compared in scale or intensity to the disturbances there in 1981 or 1987, but then the

police were prepared to confront the looters.

"We are very disappointed with the police," one elderly white woman said. "They are treating the blacks with kid gloves. If it had been any other group of people they would have been there and stopped it."

The police in Chapeltown are caught between a rock and a hard place. If they police in large numbers they are accused by local blacks, the second largest ethnic minority there after Asians, of swamping the area and provoking trouble. If they adopt a softly-softly approach, the are accused of giving in to the drug-dealers, the robbers and lawless youths.

Chief Superintendent Ray Evans, the sub-divisional commander, who broke off his holiday after the disturbance, emphasises that Chapeltown needs special policing. He points out, however, that the district's crime level is lower than some other areas of Leeds.

He maintains that Chapeltown's bad press is unfair, and says that the area is not as run down as trouble spots in other parts of the country, such as Moss Side in Manchester or Toxteth in Liverpool. "We have to be conscious of the complex



Tension builder: police searching a black driver's car during unrest in the Chapeltown area of Leeds in 1981

racial and religious background of people in the area," Mr Evans said. "We have a tremendous ethnic mix, which can cause problems if not well-handled. We have to police by consent and we have to be selective about how we deal with the drugs problem in the area."

"You have to start from the base line that you won't eradicate all drugs - you'd like to, but this is the real world. What I will not have is wholesale selling on the streets. I don't want to wreck 20,000-odd lives in Chapeltown. A riot is no problem for me. We have the equipment, but would people want their houses and cars wrecked?"

The determination shown by Mr Evans to police his

sub-division effectively and sensitively seems to be shared by most of his officers. But in a tense area such as Chapeltown, perceptions are often more important than realities.

To most young blacks congregated outside the Hayfield public house the police can do no right. They say that they are picked on just because they are black.

"They keep stopping me because they see me driving an H-registered car," one of them said. But when asked how he had paid for the car, the portable telephone that was sticking out of his trouser pocket, and his expensive clothes, he provided no explanation.

Equally, the view widely held by Asians and whites in

Chapeltown that the disturbance shows that police have a no-go policy seems wide of the mark. According to police sources, the investigation that Mr Nobes launched yesterday is likely to show that the inspector on duty misjudged Monday's incident.

The sources say that the inspector failed to call senior officers for advice on how to handle the disturbance. Although he had only eight officers on duty, he could have telephoned for reinforcements, which were available.

Earlier that night, on the other side of the city, more than 50 police officers had carried out a raid on an acid house party and could have been quickly dispatched to

Chapeltown. There were clear signs in the previous two weeks, according to the sources, that tension was building up in Chapeltown. Several taxis had been attacked, leading to the cab companies boycotting the area at night. A drug raid on the Hayfield public house on Wednesday had led to six arrests.

The underlying hostility between some blacks and Asians had worsened after several robberies on Asian women and a fight in a Kashmiri restaurant. At the weekend, a local primary school had been attacked by arsonists.

The sources say that those signs should have been read and the police prepared for trouble.

Bookshop chiefs lock horns in prices dispute

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE heads of two leading bookshop chains, WH Smith and Pinter Books, are in opposing camps in an increasingly acrimonious dispute over the right to sell books at a discount.

The net book agreement (NBA) maintains the retail price on books by agreement with publishers. It was described, in a report published in June by the Institute of Economic Affairs, as a cartel dominated by "Hampstead socialists".

Terry Maher, chairman of Pinter, which owns Dillons and Hatchards, believes that the agreement keeps prices high, stunting growth in the book market, and that the trade no longer needs its protection. Now Sir Simon Horroby, chairman of WH Smith, has entered the dispute, defending the agreement and attacking its critics.

Sir Simon believes that the competitive discounting anticipated by opponents of the agreement could not be sustained, and that the profits of independent book retailers, as opposed to chains such as WH Smith and the Pinter shops, would be critically squeezed while discounts prevailed.

Writing in the latest edition of *Logos*, the book industry's newsletter, he says: "Maher stops short of arguing that general price-cutting will expand the book market. He relies on allegedly magnetic pulling-power which discounting a number of best-sellers would exercise over the general public. No serious observer of the book trade would accept such a one-dimensional view of customer behaviour."

Sir Simon, who is also chairman of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, says that comparison with overseas markets shows that retail price maintenance has not forced prices up in Britain.

He adds: "The NBA will survive because those who gain from it - the book-buying public, booksellers and publishers - heavily outnumber those who perceive themselves as losers or find their commercial ambitions frustrated."

Five jailed for fake dollars plot

Five men who plotted to flood the currency market with fake US dollars with a face value of \$6 million were jailed yesterday for conspiring to counterfeit \$100 notes. Plymouth crown court was told a buyer for the forgeries lived abroad.

Edward Gerry, from Plympton, Devon, and Clifford Batts and John Lawson, both of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, were each jailed for seven years. Roy Wingrove, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire, was jailed for four years and Brian Roche, also from Plympton, for two years.

Hinkley fire

Staff were evacuated from Hinkley Point nuclear power plant when fire broke out on the roof of a main turbine hall. The fire, caused by a roofer's overheated rat pot, caused no injuries or radioactivity risks.

Hard hat

Michael Smith of Ilkerton, Derbyshire, was awarded £70 compensation by magistrates after Russell Holmes ate his tribby hat in a pub. Holmes was fined £200 for causing criminal damage.

Majors fly out

John Major and his family flew in a military aircraft from RAF Alconbury, Cambridgeshire, to holiday in Spain.

Bond winner

The winner of the £250,000 National Savings Premium Bonds monthly draw is 21BS 493906. The winner lives in Hampshire, holding £5,026.

Clergy drawn to their wives 'by faith, not looks'

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CLERGYMEN are attracted to their wives more for their religious faith than for their appearance, research shows. Some women married clergy as a substitute for their own impossible dreams of priesthood.

Clergy marriages display striking differences from secular marriages and can require counselling if they are to flourish, according to the preliminary results of a church-sponsored survey to be published in the autumn. Although the break-up rate is low compared with the national average, clergy marriages survive at the cost of conflicts over holiness, self-esteem, religious values, sexual and gender issues and money.

The £20,000 research project, based at Sheffield City Polytechnic, has prompted the founding of the Clergy Marriage Consultation Service, a counselling body at the Westminster Pastoral Foundation in Kensington, west London.

The research is financed by groups including the Church of England's Southwark diocese, the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Relate and John Paul Getty. The Rev Tom Leary, a psychotherapist and a clergyman in the Southwark diocese, carried out more than 100 hours of interviews with 37 couples in two dioceses in the provinces of Canterbury and York.

He described a "piggyback phenomenon", where men appeared to have been

ordained on behalf of their wives. "It was the closest that the women could come to being ordained themselves," he said. "The gender issue was fundamental. Many people offer for ministry because they are unsure of their sexual identity. The church provides a secure environment in which to explore this."

Nearly a third of the couples interviewed had met in church, 16 per cent at college, 11 per cent on overseas missionary work and 5 per cent when they were Sunday school teachers. In most cases religious belief was more important in the initial attraction than physical appeal.

"Most of the clergy were attracted to their wives because of their faith," Mr Leary, vicar of St Barnabas's parish, Sutton, Surrey, said. The choice was based on "whether she would fulfil the role of a good clergy wife".

A third of the couples said that what they valued most about each other was mutual support and sharing. None of the wives and fewer than one in ten of the husbands valued the physical side of the marriage.

Mr Leary, who hopes to present his report to the House of Bishops, is calling for more skilled intervention to help marriages in trouble, for a common programme of pastoral advice across the dioceses and for an increase in stipends for clergy with children.

Women priests, page 8

HTV angered by approach to staff

By ANDREW LYCETT

THE independent company HTV has responded angrily to a request by the Merit Television consortium - which is challenging HTV's bid in the new round of ITV franchises - to approach its staff.

HTV is one of the 16 franchise holders. The approach highlights the uncertain future faced by 14,339 full-time HTV employees during the five-month hiatus as the Independent Television Commission examines 40 applications to run the new Channel 3 network.

Bids for the new round of franchises had to be submitted by May and the commission will not announce the winners until October. It must accept the highest bid for each franchise but has first to ensure the applicants can provide and maintain a good enough service (or pass a "quality threshold").

One of the closest contests is in Wales and the west of England, where HTV, the incumbent, is fighting off a challenge from Merit Television, a consortium linking Chrysalis, Associated Newspapers and Trillion.

Although insiders suggest that HTV has bid higher, Paul Ellis, Merit's chief executive, remains confident of success. He has a problem, however: if he wins, he claims he will not have time to recruit staff before going on the air on January 1, 1993.

Last week, therefore, he wrote to Charles Romaine, HTV chief executive, asking him to be "kind enough to undertake publicly that any HTV staff who are approached by or talk to Merit executives will not need to feel that their current jobs or future prospects are in any way in jeopardy". Mr Ro-

maine said Mr Ellis's proposal was highly inappropriate. He said that although Mr Ellis's letter was marked "strictly private and confidential" he proposed circulating it to his staff, to whom he described it in a memo as "written to make mischief". Mr Ellis denies any such intention. He says that because of the way the franchise round has been structured he will need to recruit 360 staff in eight months. That

is significantly fewer than HTV's 700 employees because Merit is one of a new breed of publisher-broadcasters that intends to rely on independent rather than in-house productions.

That creates further problems. At the last franchise round new companies simply took over the premises, facilities and staff of beaten incumbents, lock, stock and barrel. Now independent television is a different business

and Mr Ellis says recruiting the 360 staff he wants would take two years.

He maintains that HTV staff have already approached him for jobs. "They face an uncertain future and I have thrown them a lifeline," he said. "The situation the TTC has created is quite appalling. If an incumbent fails to win, all its staff get thrown out on the street."

The commission denies any responsibility for job losses.



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NATIONAL SAVINGS

All Savers Great and Small

Bomb site nature haven is a winner

By KERRY GILL

HUNDREDS of pale blue damselflies hovered above the pond George McNeill created, its still waters broken only by leaping rainbow trout. Rabbits scampered among the reeds, orchids and recently planted alder, aspen and willow trees.

The idyllic scene was a far cry from the night 50 years ago when three bombs crashed into the West Lothian field after being jettisoned by a Luftwaffe bomber returning home from a raid over Clydebank, 30 miles to the west. The bombs did no more harm than to turn poorly drained pasture into a permanent bog.

Yesterday Mr McNeill, a planner who lives on a small holding at Hilly Farm, near Linlithgow, once the home of Scottish kings and birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots, received an award for his creation from the national Pondwatch scheme organised by the Wildfowl



Nurturing nature: George McNeill in the award-winning pond he has created near Linlithgow

and Wetlands Trust. He bought the farm eight years ago and decided to turn the bog into a pond that would attract all kinds of wildlife, from coots, badgers and frogs to orchids and migrating mallard ducks. His work began at the end of 1988.

"I took advice on creating ponds for wildlife," Mr

McNeill said. "It took a week of work with a mechanical digger, which almost disappeared sometimes, and then I managed to divert one of two natural springs to provide a permanent source of water continually flowing through the pond."

The pond, which was stocked with about 50 trout,

is surrounded by reeds that germinated from seeds carried in by swans and ducks. A tiny island was made in the middle. Mr McNeill planted trees to create cover for animals, and wild orchids have appeared.

Mr McNeill's efforts yesterday won him first place in the farm category of the Pondwatch scheme, sponsored by the Shell Better Britain Campaign, which attracts entries from throughout the United Kingdom. The judges were attracted by the way in which he succeeded in balancing environmental ideals with the practical needs of the farm.

● The Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency yesterday published figures showing its success in combating salmon poaching in coastal and offshore waters. This year, up to the end of last month, 82 nets, measuring a total of 2.6 miles, were seized after operations by helicopter and a fishery protection launch.

PLO signals flexibility on American proposals

FROM PENNY GIBBINS IN TUNIS
AND RICHARD BEEBON IN JERUSALEM

NEW signs emerged yesterday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation might be prepared to be flexible about the make-up of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference planned for October.

Bassam Abu Sharif, an adviser to Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, said yesterday: "The birthplaces of the delegates are not important. The delegation will be in any case representing all Palestinians."

His comments represent a marked softening of the PLO's line that residents of east Jerusalem must be on the negotiating team. However, Wafa, the official PLO news agency, issued a headline statement yesterday, laying out five conditions for the conference to be successful. The agency said that the conference:

- must be based on United Nations resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem;
- must recognise the political rights of Palestinians, especially their right to self-determination;
- must not pass over the issue of Jerusalem;
- the PLO alone must designate the Palestinian negotiating team, without outside interference; and
- Israel must halt settlements in the occupied territories, again including Jerusalem.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Abu Sharif suggested that the PLO might give up some of these. "The birthplaces of the delegates are not important," he said. "The delegation will be in any case representing all Palestinians."

This represents a marked softening of the PLO's standard position that residents of East Jerusalem must be on the negotiating team.

Mr Abu Sharif emphasised yesterday that the Jerusalem issue was crucial. "The status of Jerusalem will be on the agenda for discussion as part of lands occupied in 1967," he said. "Since 1967, Jerusalem has expanded and has taken in 23 per cent of the land of the West Bank. Nor is the city itself a Jewish city, as the Israelis argue. It is a holy city to Muslims and Christians, too. I believe it should have a

special status. The fact that the city is divided is consecrated by the Israelis themselves. For example, the curfew they applied to the West Bank also includes east Jerusalem but not west Jerusalem."

Although the PLO broadly welcomed the conference, Mr Abu Sharif admitted that some members resented the preconditions laid down by the American administration. These were limitations put up according to Israeli objections. However, he said: "We have been dealing with these limitations since before the Gulf war, and we know the Americans have been enthusiastic in trying to surmount each obstacle."

"We have already made many concessions. We accept that prominent PLO leaders will not be welcome at the conference and we have given positive support to the search for candidates generally acceptable to everyone. But there is a limit in asking the Palestinians to give concessions every time. Any further concessions would allow Sharmir [Yitzhak Sharmir, the Israeli prime minister] to pick the Palestinian delegation, and would amount to a complete capitulation."

The PLO has been expecting Israel to turn down the proposals put forward by James Baker, the American Secretary of State, and another senior PLO official suggested that this could still happen. He said he hoped that Israel would not seek to sabotage the peace process, by placing too much emphasis on who spoke for the Palestinians.

The official, who would not be named, also said that he hoped that the United States would not spoil relations between the PLO and Jordan by putting too much pressure on King Hussein. Earlier this week, the king criticised the leadership of the PLO.

His comments also reflected the group's fear that it might be abandoned at the negotiating table by the Arab states, because of its support for Iraq during the Gulf war. "We hope they will not skip over the Palestinian question by making separate peace with Arab states only."

Today Mr Baker will begin his first tour of the North African state of Tunisia as part of the peace-seeking effort.

Although both the United States and the PLO say that Mr Baker will not meet PLO leaders during his tour of Tunisia, sources say that meetings could be held.

They point out that the dialogue between the PLO and America was only suspended last year, not cut, and indirect contact continued.

Pressure on Palestinians, page 1

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Speaking out: members of right-wing Israeli groups demonstrating yesterday outside the office of Yitzhak Sharmir, the prime minister, against the American proposals for a Middle East peace conference. Ariel Sharon, the Israeli housing minister, says Israel would be

making a historic mistake by attending Middle East peace talks, and he might resign if it did. "It's a trap. The state of Israel is going through the most dangerous period of its existence," Mr Sharon told *Le Figaro*, the French newspaper, in an interview published yesterday. He

spoke before Israel agreed on Thursday to take part in a peace conference in October on condition that the question of Palestinian representation was settled. The minister, who has continued building new Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in spite

of American protests that they are a major obstacle to any peace agreement, is one of Israel's most vocal opponents of any form of negotiation with Palestinians. Asked if he was considering resigning, Mr Sharon said: "I would have no problem leaving the government."

Thirst for peace focuses on water

FROM ADAM KELLNER IN AMMAN

EVERY the most ardent Jewish and Arab opponents get thirsty and need to wash, and their mutual need for adequate water supplies could become the catalyst for a Middle East peace settlement.

On the other hand, experts say that if new supplies are not found to overcome growing water shortages control of the diminishing supply could be enough to start another regional conflict. The issue is fraught with political, military, economic and social consequences, and can be solved effectively only by ending decades of enmity. In many ways, water is the poor man's oil, but while there are alternative energy resources, there is no substitute for water.

"Water is going to be the most important geopolitical liquid in the coming decades," said Ali Ghezawi, an economist who has recently completed a study of the issue. "If we don't have a peaceful settlement, people will have to fight for water because it will be a matter of survival."

King Hussein once said that water would be the only justification for his nation going to war with Israel again. If a peace conference takes place, water rights will be at the top of the agenda in any bilateral talks between the Jewish state and its Arab adversaries.

Rivers such as the Euphrates, Tigris, Yarmouk and Jordan have sustained life in the sun-drenched region for thousands of years, but in the last quarter of the 20th century



Hussein sees water as only reason for conflict

those people who have been militarily weak and live downstream have been at the mercy of whichever nation controls the source or siphons off the water en route.

Such is the depleted state of the Jordan river before it reaches the Dead Sea that it should now be known as the Jordan creek. Jordanian experts claim that the average Israeli consumes about 300 litres of water a day, while Jordanians use only 80 litres.

This is largely because Israel's economy is more developed and tracts of desert have been transformed into fertile land. However, the diversion of vast amounts of non-renewable water to greater Israel from an artesian aquifer beneath the occupied West Bank makes Palestinians particularly bitter; they are rarely given permission to drill for water on their land, while many Jewish settlements have swimming pools.

One of the five, Wang Junzao, an editor, suffers from hepatitis B, is threatening to go on hunger strike unless his conditions are improved. Hou Xiaotian, Wang's wife, has written an open letter saying he is being kept in a "living hell" in solitary confinement in an insect-infested, foul-smelling cell just 11ft square in Peking's notorious No 2 prison.

Asia Watch, the human rights organisation, has appealed on his behalf to President Bush, and American officials say that Washington will be renewing diplomatic pressure.

Earlier this week Ms Hou went to plead her husband's case at the Labour Reform Bureau, which is in charge of the prisons, and was told by a senior official that Wang, aged 33, would remain in a special punishment cell until his attitude improved, no matter what international pressure was applied. Later in the week, however, justice officials in another department told Wang's wife that an investigation had been ordered, and that his prison conditions might improve.

Three other dissidents are believed to be held in similar

Kuwaitis take to streets on anniversary of invasion

FROM REUTERS IN KUWAIT CITY

KUWAITIS mourned their war dead yesterday, commemorating the first anniversary of the day President Saddam Hussein's tanks swept across the border. After dawn broke, men in white robes and black-clad women attended prayers for those killed during the Iraqi invasion and seven months of occupation.

Earlier, cries of "Allahu akbar" (God is great) echoed across Kuwait City's darkened streets and tracer bullets lit the

sky. No official ceremonies or demonstrations were planned, but shops and government offices remained closed. Young Kuwaitis driving limousines and sports cars cruised around the city sounding their horns and singing patriotic songs. "We just want to forget what happened, that is why there are no marches or anything," one man said.

The city basked in sunshine, a reminder that one legacy of the invasion — the thick, black

clouds of smoke from oil wells set ablaze by the Iraqis — is gradually being brought under control. Firefighters have so far capped more than 250 of the 600 wells.

An editorial in *Sawt al-Kuwait* said: "August 2 is the day of treachery and occupation and defeat. ... It is a day of treachery because our Arab history has not recorded in its pages before the slaughtering of a brother by stabbing him in the back and the rape of his country by force."

Kuwait Radio lamented the invasion by the "Despot of Baghdad" and urged Kuwaitis not to forget their martyrs.

Among those missing from the streets were members of Kuwait's tiny police force and the army, which failed to put up any resistance against the Iraqis. Kuwaiti residents

awoke a year ago to see Iraqi tanks in control of the capital after Saddam's soldiers had seized the emirate overnight.

Kuwait City emerged from the invasion with mainly superficial damage and it is now returning to normal. Shopping centres are packed with customers after sunset, when temperatures become more bearable, and supermarkets are filled with all kinds of foreign products.

Kuwait is still a super-rich country and moving rapidly towards economic recovery. Last week the emirate exported its first cargo of crude oil since the invasion and it hopes to export 400,000 barrels a day by the end of the year. Before the invasion it produced two million barrels a day.

Lebanon alone in gaining from war

FROM ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

WITH the consolidation of peace and the army extending control over yet more of Lebanon, observers believe the country is emerging as the sole Arab nation to benefit from Iraq's annexation of Kuwait last year and the subsequent war in the Gulf.

Lebanon maintained a positive neutrality in the conflict by siding politically with Kuwait but refusing to send troops to fight alongside allied forces in Operation Desert Storm against Iraq. This stand earned appreciation from the West and the rich Gulf states as well as understanding on the home front: Lebanon, for the first time in 15 years, was spared the fictional fighting usually provoked by similar inter-Arab conflicts.

Observers here agree that the rare Syrian-US alliance after the annexation of Kuwait also reflected positively on Lebanon, allowing Syria to move its army more freely here and to end the rebellion of General Michel Aoun who, for two years, blocked the implementation of a peace pact.

This boosted the government of President Hrawi, which hurriedly dissolved all illegal armies and militias and partly dismantled the components of the civil war.

The fix in which the Palestine Liberation Organisation placed itself by supporting Iraq also allowed Lebanon to finish off the PLO guerrillas in the south and defuse a main source of unrest.

Lebanon alone in gaining from war

UN will convene Cyprus talks

Washington — President Bush announced yesterday that Greece and Turkey had agreed to attend a peace conference in the United States aimed at ending the division of Cyprus. Mr Bush said the conference was planned for September and would be convened and chaired by Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations secretary-general. Mr Bush said Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister of Greece, and President Ozal of Turkey had told him of their willingness to attend a meeting concerning Cyprus.

"Greek and Turkish leaders will work in support of the secretary-general's efforts in the advance of the meeting planned for September in the United States, provided that adequate progress is made narrowing differences before then," Mr Bush said.

Before his visits to Greece and Turkey last month, Mr Bush had said he hoped to serve as a catalyst to end tensions between the two NATO allies over Cyprus. (Reuters)

Cholera alert

Mexico City — Guatemala has declared a state of alert on its border with Mexico after four people died and 60 became infected with cholera. The disease, which has claimed the lives of more than 2,000 people in Peru since February, has spread throughout southern Mexico, crossing the border into Guatemala.

Rwanda raid

Nairobi — More than 80 Rwandan troops were killed when Rwanda Patriotic Front rebels raided the town of Bisate, 15 miles from the Ugandan border, and blew up two government lorries, military sources said. Villagers fled south to the government garrison at Shingiro.

'Slavery' claim

Islamabad — Thousands of families in Pakistan are condemned to slavery by a system of bonded labour, a report by the human rights commission of Pakistan says. The report, which highlights the plight of children forced into labour, says government moves to fight the problem have been ineffective. (Reuters)

Grant scrapped

Delhi — The Indian government bowed to pressure from the opposition and ruling Congress (I) party and withdrew a grant for a foundation named after Rajiv Gandhi, the former prime minister. Manmohan Singh, the finance minister, said the ₹23 million was withdrawn at the request of the foundation. (AFP)

3D television

Tokyo — Two Japanese companies are developing a television that could bring characters into the home in three-dimensional colour. Researchers are working on a screen that creates the 3D effect through hundreds of tiny double-convex lenses built into the surface in vertical ridges. (AP)

Police let naked boy stay with Dahmer

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MILWAUKEE

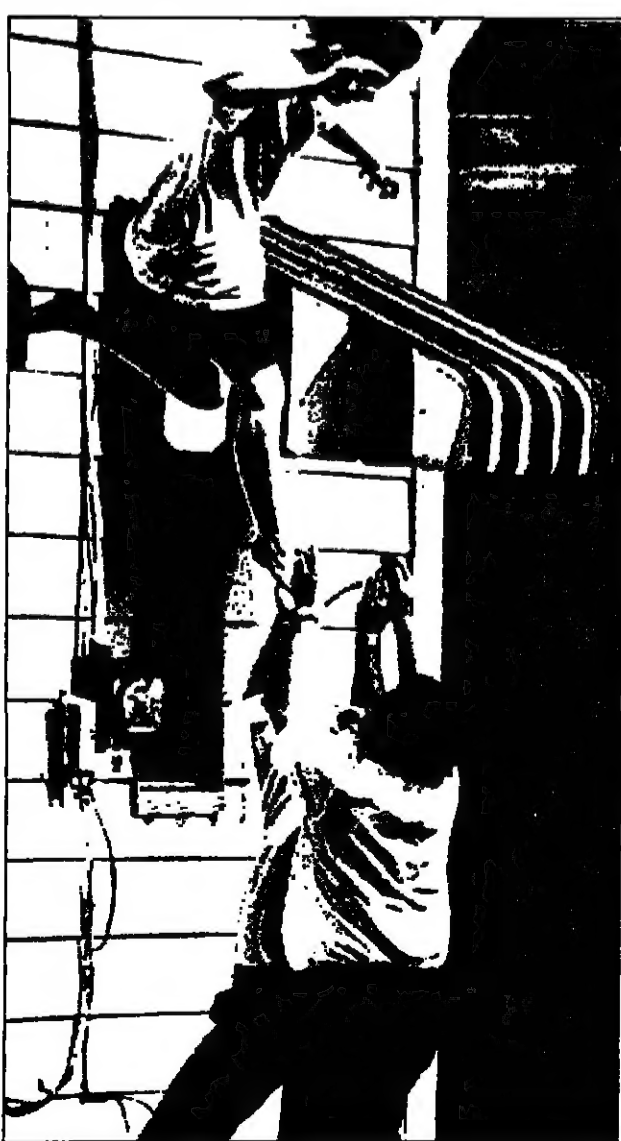
THREE police officers were inside Jeffrey Dahmer's flat two months before parts of bodies were found there, officials said on Thursday. One officer said they let a naked boy stay there because they thought he was an adult and it was "a boyfriend-boyfriend thing".

The 14-year-old Laotian boy's remains were found among the 11 dismembered bodies in Mr Dahmer's flat on July 22. The three officers, who have not been named, have since been suspended.

On Thursday, Police Chief Philip Arreola filed administrative charges against the officers, saying they had "failed to conduct a basic, proper investigation". He said criminal charges were not planned against the officers.

After investigating Mr Dahmer's flat on May 27, one of the officers joked about his partner having to be "de-loused", according to a recording of the officers' conversations on police radio.

The *Milwaukee Journal*, quoting sources familiar with the police's internal investigation, said Mr Dahmer later told police he killed the boy, Konerak Sinthasomphone, as soon as the officers left the flat. Police would not comment on the report.



Freedom leap: Dawn Hess, aged 18, jumps from the upstairs room in Berwick, Pennsylvania, where her stepfather held her hostage while her mother, Paula Winn, picks up the family dog, thrown down earlier

Bush to call for prisoners' release

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

WASHINGTON is to put pressure on Peking to release five political prisoners, arrested after the pro-democracy demonstrations in 1989, who are kept in punishment cells because of their refusal to repent.

One of the five, Wang Junzao, an editor, suffers from hepatitis B, is threatening to go on hunger strike unless his conditions are improved. Hou Xiaotian, Wang's wife, has written an open letter saying he is being kept in a "living hell" in solitary confinement in an insect-infested, foul-smelling cell just 11ft square in Peking's notorious No 2 prison.

Asia Watch, the human rights organisation, has appealed on his behalf to President Bush, and American officials say that Washington will be renewing diplomatic pressure.

Earlier this week Ms Hou went to plead her husband's case at the Labour Reform Bureau, which is in charge of the prisons, and was told by a senior official that Wang, aged 33, would remain in a special punishment cell until his attitude improved, no matter what international pressure was applied. Later in the week, however, justice officials in another department told Wang's wife that an investigation had been ordered, and that his prison conditions might improve.

Three other dissidents are believed to be held in similar

conditions because of their refusal to repent. They include Chen Ziming, an economist, sentenced to 13 years; Wang Dan, a student activist, sentenced to four years; and Ren Wanding, the veteran human rights campaigner, sentenced to seven years.

Bao Zunxin, a philosopher serving a five-year term, is believed to have been admitted to hospital for treatment of a heart condition. Reginald Bartholomew, the American under-secretary of state for arms control, yesterday ended a short visit to Peking during which he briefed Chinese officials on the Moscow summit.

He did not, however, appear to have pressed the Chinese for any concessions on human rights.

● Kolonia, Pohnpei: The 15 members of the South Pacific Forum have rejected a plea from China not to open talks with Taiwan. "I'd ask the two countries to go under a coconut or a banana tree and talk to themselves. That is their problem, not ours," Henry Natani, outgoing secretary-general of the forum, said.

Liu Huaqiu, the Chinese deputy foreign minister, warned the forum states on Thursday against initiating a separate dialogue with the nationalist government of Taiwan. Mr Liu said Beijing was "firmly opposed to any attempt, word or deed, aimed at creating two Chinas ... or an independent Taiwan".



Hedy Lamarr: allegedly put items in handbag

Hollywood star is arrested

Casselberry, Florida — Police arrested Hedy Lamarr, the actress, aged 77, on Thursday for allegedly stealing \$21.48 (£12.50) of toiletries from a chemist.

"She was found to have in her possession several concealed personal care items that she had not paid for," Patrick Simpson, a police spokesman said. "She did not have a receipt or proof of purchase of the items."

It was Miss Lamarr's second arrest for shoplifting. She was arrested in 1965 in Los Angeles but was cleared. Police said that a shop assistant saw Miss Lamarr stuffing the items into her handbag.

The case will be heard on August 20. If convicted, she faces a maximum penalty of six months in county jail and a \$500 fine. (Reuters)

Defeat damages Tigers' image

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN COLOMBO

SRI Lanka's victory in the crucial battle for Elephant Pass will deal a serious blow to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Government troops have been fighting the bloodiest battle of the eight-year civil war to regain the pass, which controls land access to the northern peninsula, the rebels' northern stronghold.

At dawn yesterday thousands of troops were only 600 yards from the besieged army camp straddling the pass. Communications with the area are non-existent, but sources close to the army said the battle had in effect been won, although at a high price, with many soldiers killed. The 800 troops trapped in the Elephant Pass camp had managed to hold out despite not being resupplied for a long period, the sources added.

The relief of the camp will add to the popularity of President Premadasa, whose staying power in the face of economic hardship, civil war, an earlier battle against Sinhalese extremists, and accusations of human rights abuses has been remarkable. In May his United National party swept the board in local polls.

The future of Sirima Bandaranaike, aged 75, the opposition leader, is now unclear.

The army's continued hold over Elephant Pass will hamper movements by the Tigers between Jaffna, which they control ruthlessly, and the east, where they also exercise

considerable influence. In future they will have to move by sea, which is more risky.

These are difficult times for the Tigers, whose self-discipline and military expertise are legendary. Their image has suffered because of their dictatorial tactics in Jaffna, where dissent brings death, as well as from reports of atrocities against Sri Lankan Muslims.

Public opinion has started to turn against them even in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, where 50 million Tamils live. Tamil Nadu once supported the Tigers, wholeheartedly, regardless of protests from Delhi, even allowing them to operate training camps on the mainland. But the assassination last May of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Indian prime minister, allegedly by the Tigers, changed that.

Since state elections in June, Tamil Nadu has been controlled by a regional party allied with the Congress (I) party, which Gandhi led. Jayalalitha, the chief minister, said immediately after taking office that the Tigers would be eliminated from the state.

● Delhi: One of two suspected Tamil militants, who swallowed cyanide last Friday to escape arrest, has died, the Press Trust of India said. The two were suspected of being involved in the assassination of Gandhi. The second man is in a critical state in hospital. (AFP)

Marxist and bourgeois coexist in Budapest ghetto of wealth



Mrs Kadar: widow of the former communist leader

GREY-GREEN and swollen, the Danube splits the Hungarian capital into rich and poor, Buda and Pest, winners and losers in the market revolution.

High on the Rozsádomb, the exclusive Rose Hill section of Buda, some of the best views of the Danube can be glimpsed through the double-glazed windows of the computer and cosmetics millionaires who live here. Jaguars, BMWs, Mercedes and Jeeps clutter the gravelled driveways but mainly the wealth is tucked away, as it was under communism.

New money concentrates in these streets — Kapy Street, Bimbo Street — rising with the contours of the hill. But among the Rose Hill residents there is some nervousness: the owners of the past, the original middle-class victims of commun-

On the fourth leg of his Danube odyssey, Roger Boyes reaches Buda and Pest, where the river divides rich winners from needy losers

ism, may ask the courts to return their property.

Until the end of the war Rose Hill was the home of Hungary's *grande bourgeoisie*. When the communists took over, only small villas stayed in private hands. Big houses became flats.

Typically, a house on Filler Street that used to belong to a Budapest chocolate baron was converted into living space for a dozen families. Slowly it dawned on the Budapest authorities that the houses were crumbling. The city could not afford to renew or even paint their facades. The only

places in good repair were the villas that had been handed over to communist officials — or rather rented at a peppercorn rent, and then offered for sale at a low price.

Thus was the decision taken to sell some of the older houses at market value to the new rich — specifically, the new rich with connections in the housing department. Now these *new-veaux riches* have in turn been edged aside by a fresh wave of even wealthier families who have made money very quickly in the past two years. Up on Rose Hill they all rub shoulders: the dwin-



ding number of tenants on fixed rents, the veteran communists — including Maria, the widow of Janos Kadar — the pre-1989 businessmen and the astronomically rich.

Above all, the Rozsádomb demonstrates how the ruling class adapted to changing times, just as mammoths became elephants. Dr Elmer Hankiss, a sociologist who is now head of Hungarian television, has made a study of oligarchic families who

Clark, the Scottish engineer, there is Pest, the old commercial part of the capital. On this side of the Danube there are pockets of wealth, but poverty too, as grim as anything in New York's Bowery. The homeless gather at the railway stations for the night.

The central statistical office says about a million Hungarians live below subsistence level. Another two million hover somewhere between subsistence and an officially defined "social minimum". That is, some three million people in a total population of 11 million have slipped through the social net.

Many come from the countryside to Budapest for work, find none and end up destitute. They beg on the fashionable streets, or slump on the paved Danube

promenade until nightfall. Until last year Gyorgy was a worker at the steelworks on Csepel Island on the Danube. He made it easier for the management to hand out its redundancy notice by turning up drunk all the time and the staff at the shelter on Banya Street think twice about taking him in.

Zoltan Lokner, organising a task force for the homeless, is trying to keep pace with the speed of change. "The communists simply did not deal with the problems," he said. But it will take more than Clark's bridge to close the gap between the Hungarian scenes in Pest's railway termini and the manicured lawns of fragrant Rose Hill.

Next stop: Kozloduy, Bulgaria

EC steps up calls for intervention as more Croats die

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND MARY DEBEVSKY IN MOSCOW

WITH fighting intensifying in Yugoslavia, European Community foreign ministers said yesterday that European military intervention and a peace-keeping force might be needed if current peace negotiations failed.

Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister who will lead this weekend's EC troika to Yugoslavia, said in Amsterdam that if fighting continued unabated there could be calls for the community to send in a peacekeeping force. This, he said, should be organised through the Western European Union, but all other alternatives should first be exhausted. Jacques Poos, the Luxembourg foreign minister and also a member of the troika, said a ceasefire would have to be negotiated before any peacekeeping force could move in.

Germany, which has strongly supported the breakaway republics of Slovenia and

Croatia, called instead for an international buffer force to be put in place. In a newspaper article, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, dismissed calls for an armed community force and was pessimistic about the EC's ability to avert civil war in Yugoslavia.

Heavy fighting continued in Yugoslavia yesterday. The *Borba* newspaper reported that most of the 40 Croatian police stationed in the village of Dalj, in Croatia's Slavonia region, were killed in clashes early in the morning. In Osijek, the main town near by, the mayor said about 50 people, including Croat civilians, police and national guards, had died in the village, and the Tanjug news agency said at least 80 people had died.

In Zagreb, Branimir Glavas, head of the national guard in Slavonia, asked about the death toll, said he thought

about 20 guardsmen had been killed "and a great number of civilians".

In its report, Tanjug said the village had been sealed off and bodies were still lying uncollected. Some 300 Croat police and armed civilians were involved in clashes with Serbs, before the army was called in by the Serbs, it said.

Croatian police recaptured the Croatian town of Kostajnica, southeast of Zagreb, during Thursday night, a day after they lost control of it to Serbian autonomists, the agency added. On Wednesday night Zagreb radio announced that there had been heavy fighting around the town but it later became clear that it had simply been abandoned by the Croats without a shot being fired.

In Brussels yesterday anonymous callers claiming to be Croats threatened Mr Poos hours before he was to fly to Zagreb. They accused the EC of favouring the Serbs and of trying to wreck Croatia's attempt to win independence from Yugoslavia. The call has heightened concern in Brussels that the EC monitors may themselves become targets. The troika is to have talks in Zagreb with Dr Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, then go to Belgrade to meet Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader.

Ante Markovic, the prime minister of what is still Yugoslavia, has spent the past two days in Moscow trying to revive urgent deliveries of raw materials and collect a \$600,000 (£360,000) Soviet debt. At a joint press conference yesterday with the Yugoslavian prime minister, Valentin Pavlov, his Soviet counterpart, referred to him as "my friend, colleague and comrade in arms" and said that it was essential for Yugoslavia to "resolve its internal problems without any change in its external or internal borders". The Soviet Union, he said, had a special interest in the outcome of Yugoslavia's current difficulties and the preservation of "Yugoslavia's unity and territorial integrity".

Asked if Moscow would join the embargo on arms sales to Yugoslavia, he said: "On no account will we interfere in the internal affairs of Yugoslavia... Throwing weapons at any side in the conflict would be interference."

One man sported a Brazilian pistol and Stevo had an old Belgian gun his father had taken from a dead German officer during the second world war. Dija, aged 24, a locksmith who has been mobilised in the national guard, wore a second-hand Nato uniform that he had bought in Germany. Ante, aged 56, was on telephone duty. "The old folks ring in to tell us if they see anything suspicious," Ante is one-eyed and blind in one eye. "I can't carry a gun but I can carry a bomb," he said.

Later that night the television showed film of damaged houses and pools of blood. According to Croatian television reports these were Croatian houses. According to Belgrade television they belong to Serbs.

The truth matters less than what people believe. Zdravko, aged 35, said that he had heard that Serb militia men had cut the throat of a small baby, drunk its blood, cut out its heart and roasted it. "People in the guard told me they saw it," Ante, who is married to a Serb, said that he was not scared of being shot but he did fear being mutilated alive.

In the village hall, straw was laid out for the guards to go to sleep. The only sound was that of the frogs. Then the storm began: there would be no more shooting that night. "Nobody likes to hold a gun when there is lightning," said Stevo.



Frontline village waits for battle

From TIM JUDAH IN KOMAREVO, CROATIA

THE late news announced that Komarevo, 40 miles southeast of Zagreb, was under attack. It came as a surprise to the volunteers and national guardsmen on duty at the village fire station. "It's the same all over Yugoslavia," said Stevo, aged 40. "You can't believe anything you hear." The attack began an hour later.

Mortars could be heard landing on a hill near the local guard headquarters. Machine-gun fire crackled. Half an hour later it subsided. No damage was done, there were no casualties and the enemy had not actually been seen. "They were just saying goodnight," laughed Stevo. The volunteers relaxed again.

Komarevo is on the frontline. Surrounded by hostile Serbian territory, this Croatian village holds a strategically vital road overlooking Sisak. Women and children have left and only some of the old and able-bodied men remain. Up on the hill the national guard, Croatia's army in the making, oversees the defence of the village.

A lorry marked "mines" cuts the road across the entrance to the village. "We found it and pushed it here," said one man. "It doesn't work and it isn't mined, but who would know for sure?"

Earlier in the day an airforce jet swooped low over Komarevo, sparking fears that a full-scale attack was imminent. The men of Komarevo say they are prepared but they are not happy. There is a machine-gun or mortar attack on the village almost every night now. "Tudjman does not give out guns," they said, referring to the Croatian president. One man showed off a home-made shotgun. The men complained that the price of guns on the black

market has been soaring. One nicknamed Mr Sniper, had an American riot police gun which he had bought for 1,800 marks (£120). "I could have bought three Kalashnikovs with the money, but I could not get one," he said. That was two months ago. Today the price of black market Kalashnikovs has risen from 700 marks to 2,400 marks.

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Old-world diplomacy: Jan Langeo, the Czechoslovak interior minister, kissing the hand of Shirley Temple Black, the American ambassador to Czechoslovakia, after signing a joint statement in Prague yesterday on the two countries' continuing co-operation in the fight to prevent the illegal production and sale of drugs

Shark fever grips Italian beaches

From PAUL BOMPARD IN PORTOFINO

SHARK fever has taken hold of the beaches of southern Liguria and northern Tuscany after a woman was attacked on Tuesday as she paddled her canoe off Portofino.

Ivana Iacacchia, aged 40, was left frightened but unhurt, after she managed to swim ashore while the shark savaged her canoe. Subsequent sightings of sharks by the coastguard and tourists in small boats have, however, kept shark fever at a high pitch.

A shark hunt, led by Antonio Alati, a rear admiral in the coastguard, is now under way. "We will try to kill the shark with the weapons that equip our control boats," he announced on Thursday.

While coastguard launches and light aircraft patrol the waters south of Genoa, dozens of would-be shark hunters are taking to the sea, armed with everything from makeshift harpoons to sophisticated fishing tackle. Those intercepted by the coastguard or the police are being advised to keep out of the way. The

sightings, three on Tuesday, and one on Thursday, report a shark between 12ft and 16ft long, large by Mediterranean standards. Most beaches have put up red flags to warn swimmers, mothers are keeping an eye on their children and bathers are scarce.

The national press has given ample space to the attack and hunt. The serious *La Stampa* newspaper of Turin even carried the report on its front page. This may, of course, be a reflection on the lack of substance in the recent, supposedly important rumblings in Italian politics.

Shark attacks in the Mediterranean are rare. About 20 have been recorded this century, 13 fatal. Seven of these took place in Italy, and the most recent was in 1989 in the Gulf of Baratti, when a scuba diver was attacked. Marine biologists from Genoa university are examining the mangled remains of the canoe. Some believe that the shark was a *smargatto*, a native of the Mediterranean that rarely becomes aggressive.

New rifts open in Communist ranks

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE Communist Party of the Soviet Union moved closer to an outright split yesterday as its most respected liberal, Aleksandr Yakovlev, virtually denounced Karl Marx and suggested that it was too late to reform the movement.

He told Tass that Marx had a "derivative attitude towards peasants". He added: "I am increasingly convinced that our tragedy results from Marxist dogmas."

As Mr Yakovlev, who resigned last weekend as a top presidential adviser, publicly foresees his faith, two of the best-known army officers in the party engaged in political battle.

Colonel Aleksandr Ruskoy, the Afghan war hero and deputy head of Boris Yeltsin's Russian administration, launched a reformist movement in the republic while the leader of the Communist movement in the armed forces pledged to resist Mr Yeltsin's efforts to depoliticise Russian workplaces. General Mikhail Surkov also said that the liberal party programme pro-

posed by President Gorbachev needed extensive rewriting. Colonel Ruskoy's group will try to wrest control of the Communist movement in Russia — which accounts for about 60 per cent of party membership — from the hardline clique led by Ivan Polozkov. The foundation of the Democratic Party of Russian Communists portends a fierce struggle within the Communist party as delegates are elected to its congress towards the end of the year.

Colonel Ruskoy told 800 cheering delegates at a conference of party separatists that the Communist party must bear responsibility for the mendacity and violence that had nearly exterminated the Russian nation. He defended Mr Yeltsin's decree ordering the removal of Communist party offices from workplaces. General Surkov said the army would ignore the decree and he rejected suggestions that the army was preparing to seize power.

Diary, page 8

Moscow orders shooting enquiry

Moscow — Boris Pugo, the Soviet interior minister, yesterday opened an official investigation into the shooting of eight Lithuanian customs officials on Wednesday (Our Foreign Staff writes). Six of the victims were found dead and a seventh died yesterday in hospital.

The eighth is in a critical condition and being guarded by armed police. Meanwhile, General Marijonas Misiukonis, Lithuania's interior minister, has resigned.

The official investigation brings together officers from the central and the Lithuanian interior ministries, who were said by Mr Pugo to be "maintaining businesslike relations" and "operating in complete mutual understanding". Until now the independent Lithuanian interior ministry has been regarded by the central authorities as unconstitutional and illegal.

Anthrax scare

Vancouver — An outbreak of anthrax among the world's largest herd of free-roaming buffalo has forced the Canadian government to close 100 square miles of Wood Buffalo National Park to public travel. A spokesman said a dozen bison had died from the disease. (Reuter)

Peru toll rises

Lima — More than 3,000 people died in political violence in President Fujimori's first year in power, compared with 1,268 in the first year of the previous president's administration. Enrique Bernales, the head of a senate panel, said the country could face civil war if the trend continued. (Reuter)

Mafia stalemate

Rome — Domenico Sica, aged 60, has been removed from his post as high commissioner against the Mafia and made civil governor of Bologna. In three years as Italy's top anti-Mafia official he failed to reduce gang violence. Italian leaders now admit the state has lost control over large areas. (Reuter)

Police sacked

Berlin — About 1,100 policemen will be sacked by the end of the month for having worked as state security agents under the old East German communist regime, a police spokesman said. They were among 9,800 East Berlin police officers who were retained after German unification last October. (Reuter)

Forest fire

London — At least 600 villagers are being evacuated in the province of Valencia, eastern Spain, as the worst forest fire for 30 years raged near their homes. Spanish national radio said. The radio said that the fire was started by lightning and was a long way from being put out. (Reuter)

Part-time job

Tours — A senior fireman in charge of 3,000 men has been accused of turning to armed bank robbery during his spare time. Hervé Pastre, a colonel in France's military fire service, is under arrest and expected to be charged with more than 30 bank robberies over the past year. police said. (AFP)

Plea by Mehta

Jerusalem — Zubin Mehta, the Indian-born conductor, is seeking access to a son, aged two, he had by a violinist in the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the *Maariv* newspaper reported. Mehta, aged 55, who leads the orchestra, has asked a court in Haifa to recognise him as the father of the boy, his lawyer confirmed. (Reuter)



Christa Wolf: her literary merits under question

Son sues for lost honour of Heinrich Böll

From ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN

THE threatened honour of Heinrich Böll, Germany's best-known postwar author and Nobel prize winner, is set to become a matter for the courts. A bitter literary dispute has challenged the consensus that the scourge of prosperous Germany belongs among the great and good of German literature.

Eckhard Henschel, a Frankfurt satirist, has published an excoriating reassessment of the author's works and concludes that he is mystified "how such a dim, ill-informed and talented author... a pathological, harmless outcast could be deemed worthy of the Nobel prize".

This is strong stuff, especially in a society which, finding itself short of moral figures to emulate in the early postwar years, devoted an inordinate amount of adoration to both the person

and the works of Böll. His status as defender of the values of simplicity, religion and sentimentality grew with his novels about the effects of the economic miracle. *Group Portrait with Lady*, and his bestselling attack on the establishment's hysterical response to radical terrorism in the 1970s, *The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum*.

Böll died in 1985, but René, his artist son, is to sue the satirist for defamation and demand that the article be withdrawn. He is outraged that Henschel has used the words "corrupt and mendacious". While the family sees this as a slur on Böll's personality, the satirist has defended it as a justified comment. "We have reached the limit of our tolerance," René Böll said yesterday. "It seems that Germany has a pathological

desire to besmirch the reputation of its great artists."

Herr Henschel believes that Germany is too willing to grant star status to unremarkable writers. "Böll has an almost legendary status as the Good German Person, the result of an accumulation of mythology, public relations and critical laziness. It is treated as a moral affront to say that some of Böll's work was rubbish," he said.

Before his death, Böll pursued and won a seven-year court case against a commentator who claimed that his attacks on the police and the legal system served as incitements to terrorism.

The present argument is a mirror image of another debate about the standing of Christa Wolf, East Germany's best-known writer. While Böll was renowned for his attacks on the right-

wing Springer press and the dehumanising effects of economic prosperity, Frau Wolf wrote about the failure of Eastern bloc socialism to cater for spiritual needs and the plight of the individual in a collectivist society. As long as Germany was divided, their positions at the

head of their respective literary establishments went unchallenged. The demise of both East Germany and the old-style federal republic has unleashed a sudden questioning of the merits of both authors.

"The intellectual goal posts have shifted now," Herr Henschel said. "The old certainties of right against left have gone." He is preparing to defend his views in what is likely to be a hearing rich in linguistic complexity, with both sides seeking to establish the precise moment at which critical literary comment strays into personal slander.

"Just imagine, a German court dealing with linguistics, logistics and satire," Herr Henschel said. "It will be one of the funniest cases for years." Böll, whose sense of humour was never in doubt, would have appreciated that, at least.

Clifford Longley

The laity will decide whether the church can ordain women

Periodically the Church of England asks itself a question. The process of answering it can take months or years. If conducted with integrity, such an enquiry into the mind of the church is also, according to Christian doctrine, a route to the mind of God.

The latest question to be the subject of this supernatural search is whether women should be ordained to the priesthood. The rules of the search are mundane, and involve the holding of debates followed by votes, in parochial church councils, deanery synods, diocesan synods and eventually in the General Synod.

The indications so far are that three-quarters of the 43 diocesan synods have given their consent to the ordination of women, but a rather different pattern, much more negative, is beginning to emerge in the more numerous deanery synods, the membership of which is closer to the church's parish roots. It is the deanery synod membership, not that at diocesan level, which elects the General Synod's house of laity. So how the deanery synods vote is a more accurate guide to how the General Synod's own debate may go next year. And it would not be reckless, even now, to wager a modest sum that the ordination of women will not win the two-thirds majority in the General Synod's house of laity which it needs to be finally approved.

High Anglicans, Roman Catholics and the Orthodox believe that Tradition constitutes the influence of the Holy Spirit in past ages, and hence is normative for the present. Many of them would go on to say that the question of female ordination has already been answered. But Anglicanism shares with Catholicism a theory of development, which says that the tradition is dynamic rather than static and the Holy Spirit is continually shaping it. Anglicanism, of all the branches of Christianity, places greatest stress on what contemporary human wisdom can contribute.

Anglicans, however, would not say that they are changing or reinventing the faith of the church. They say they are discovering it, which is different altogether. It is an inward search, requiring of those who take part in it a scrupulous sifting through of thoughts and opinions to see which are faithful, which are spurious. And the theory is that every Christian may, in the course of such prayerful self-examination, rely on God to lead the way.

This is why, even in Catholicism with its inflexible papacy, in Orthodoxy with its inflexible Tradition, in Protestantism with its inflexible Scripture, and in Anglicanism with its combination of these, primacy above them all is still given to the *sensus fidelium*, the belief of the people. But only Anglicanism, claims to have found a way of measuring it directly.

Christian history is full of instances of a church leadership trying to take the ordinary faithful in directions which offend their basic faith instincts. Always it is the leadership that eventually gives way. If this basic instinct insists on the ordination of women, then ultimately nothing on earth — no General Synod, no parliament, no pope — will stop it. But if the instinct says ordination of women is wrong, that view will finally prevail. Righting a wrong decision in the development of Christian doctrine, however, has always proved vastly expensive in lost time, lost energy and hence lost souls. Sometimes for a section of the church (and the Church of England never claims to be more than that), it has even been fatal.

English Heritage is buried in paperwork. Can the new chairman cut his way through, asks Marcus Binney

Permission to plan



Reputation as a hatchet man: new chairman Jocelyn Stevens

Jocelyn Stevens, the new chairman of English Heritage, may be just the man to take a dispassionate look at the organisation's shape and purpose and give it the new direction, energy and enthusiasm it desperately needs. A former newspaper executive, he carried out a radical shake-up at the Royal College of Art and takes over with the reputation of a hatchet man (his nickname is "Piranha"). But while there is dead wood waiting to be axed, he will also be judged by whether he can stem the loss of talented people.

Mr Stevens's most immediate task is to decide whether to scrap the ill-conceived plan to banish the whole organisation to Nottingham. The cost of relocation, at civil service rates, is huge and with office rents plummeting in London it might well be financially advantageous to stay there.

Bolder and better still would be to regionalise the whole operation, keeping a small head-quarters and a London division in the capital while distributing the rest of the staff around the country so they are closer to the buildings they are responsible for. Virtually every monument service in Europe and North America operates in this way.

After that, the new chairman

must tackle the growth of bureaucracy, which has multiplied since EH was hived off from the Department of the Environment. An axe needs to be taken to its byzantine committee structure. Far too much time is spent generating paperwork for over-lapping committees.

Forms for grant applications have become ever more complicated, often requiring expensive input from professional accountants. Confusion abounds. "Official A tells you you can't have a grant unless you replace a missing chimney. Official B says you won't get one if you do," complains Sir John Smith, founder of the Landmark Trust.

There is also a dangerous tendency to regard owners of listed buildings as rambleresque sometimes regard landowners as the enemy. The emphasis should be on providing a service which every owner of a listed building wants to take advantage of.

This means EH must shed its image of always trying to say no. Circulars which say listed barns should not be converted into

houses simply mean the barns will fall down. The need is to publish examples of good practice and encourage people to follow them. EH has launched a commendable initiative aimed at halting an epidemic of DIY alterations in conservation areas.

But again the need is not just to wave the stick but to open people's eyes to the value of original features and fittings in

struggle and sell, at which point the nation has to intervene at far greater cost to save the buildings. EH's response is that scarce funds should be concentrated on buildings at risk, but the great need with many endangered buildings is to sort out the problems of ownership, surrounding land and planning permission.

English Heritage needs a dynamic buildings-at-risk unit; not just producing computer lists of decaying buildings, but working with architects, engineers and surveyors to produce practical schemes of reuse.

Mr Stevens should mount an attack on public bodies, notably the health service and the Ministry of Defence, which are leaving large numbers of fine listed buildings to rot. EH must shake government departments into realising there are sympathetic ways of finding commercially viable new uses, if only they will hurry up and sell the property on sensible terms.

Under its outgoing chairman, Lord Montagu, EH has vastly improved the presentation of its

castles and abbeys. What counts ultimately is not the number of visitors but the quality of the visit. When properly motivated, EH's archaeologists and historians can bring medieval buildings alive for people, just as the National Trust has fascinated visitors by opening the proverbial green baize door.

People have never been more interested in the character and history of the places in which they live and work. Yet environment ministers and civil servants remain equivocal or half-hearted in their attitude to conservation. Britain has a powerful history of laws to protect historic buildings, but too often there is not the will to use them.

What EH needs is not only a new chairman who can radically streamline the organisation, but one who can be an effective, formidable and public champion for the millions of people concerned about the continuing erosion and decay of our heritage.

The ultimate test of Mr Stevens's reign will be the quality and morale of the staff he leaves behind. There has never been more talent, expertise and enthusiasm available. To its credit, EH is already recruiting it. The Piranha needs a discriminating appetite.

Bonding: Bush's secret agent

Mr Major should relax in Spain before a strenuous three-day holiday with the US president, warns Martin Fletcher

Memo to John Major's private office. Subject: the visit of the prime minister and his family to the holiday home of the President of the United States in Kennebunkport, Maine, August 28 to 30.

1) The prime minister should get all the rest and relaxation he can in Spain next week, for he will get little of either in Kennebunkport. Indeed, the visit could be quite an ordeal.

Despite his heart palpitations, Mr Bush remains a man in perpetual motion, "an American whirling dervish" as one columnist dubbed him during his recent trip to Turkey. His idea of relaxation is a charge round the local golfcourse scattering all before him, a blast up the coast in his speedboat *Fidelity*, a jog along the shore, a tennis match, some fishing, a swim and a game of horseshoes — preferably all on the same day. Though the prime minister likes spectator sports, he wrecked his knee in a 1967 car crash and can barely walk a mile.

Mr Bush also has an abhorrence of solitude, preferring the company even of the White House press corps to none at all. The Majors should expect to find themselves sharing the president's rambling Walker's Point home, with his 89-year-old mother Dorothy, most of his five children, four daughters-in-law and 12 grandchildren, and the First Dog, Millie. Assorted friends and associates will arrive daily from Kennebunkport, Boston or even Washington. There may be 20 or more for dinner.

2) The prime minister should remember that Mr Bush believes international affairs are dictated largely by personal chemistry. His aim is to "bond" with Mr Major, and the president should be humoured.

Mr Bush built his career on thank-you notes, pioneered telephone diplomacy, and spent eight tedious years as Ronald Reagan's deputy, courting prime ministers, presidents and potentates of every stripe, mostly at state dinners. On his election, he breached protocol by calling foreign leaders before they rang him. He credits these personal ties for his success in orchestrating the global response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Conversely, aides attribute the present parlous state of US-Israeli relations to his deep dislike of Yitzhak Shamir.

Mr Bush increasingly dislikes the pomp and bureaucracy of summits, preferring one-to-one chats in informal settings. He has taken President Mubarak of Egypt to a Baltimore Orioles baseball game, President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea onto the White House tennis court, and other foreign leaders to Camp David, including Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, who positively demanded an invitation. However "boys weekends" in his beloved Kennebunkport remain the president's favourite means of bonding.

Mr Bush tried to lure Mr Gorbachev there last summer, but his failure did not surprise his officials. The Soviet leader would have been "appalled at the notion of going out on Bush's boat", said one. "Does he look like a guy who would wear a sweatshirt and sneakers and have his hair blowing at 50mph as they pounded across the waves?" Mr Gorbachev, the former Soviet ambassador Yuri Dubinin once said, "has only one hobby: perestroika".

The president and Mr Major have got off to a good start, despite their utterly different backgrounds. Before Christmas they spent a jolly evening at Camp David with the military,



singing carols; Mr Major gave unstinting support during the Gulf war, and his hosting of the London economic summit impressed Mr Bush, who told an aide that "he runs a good meeting" (President Mitterrand, by contrast, was all disdain, reportedly sending one session writing postcards). Failure to bond is a serious offence. When the president and King Hussein of Jordan failed to achieve a meeting of the minds over Iraq last August, Mr Bush refused even to escort the monarch to his aircraft.

3) The prime minister should avoid the mistakes of previous visits.

In 1989, President Mitterrand demanded a king-size bed, which Barbara Bush had to rent for the occasion, agreeing only to one short walk. His wife Danielle so laboured one pet political cause that Mrs Bush was driven to remark that American First Ladies (or at least this one) did not make policy. Mr Bush may have bonded, but Mrs Bush emphatically did not.

Though guests are encouraged

not to stand on ceremony, Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, erred in the other direction last month when he began calling the president "George".

Last summer Brian Mulroney, the Canadian prime minister, appeared so deferential that when Mr Bush threw a frisbee for Millie, members of the Canadian press suggested Mr Mulroney retrieve it first.

A studied informality is the keynote. Mrs Bush is quite likely to greet the Majors in a tracksuit. On past evidence, the lawn of the 11-acre compound will be littered

with tricycles and children's playthings. The domestic staff is minimal. "Cook-outs" — sword-fish, hot dogs, corn — are the preferred form of eating. Mrs Bush has posted notices around the house which she admits are largely ignored. "Picnics should be planned early for the beach," says one. Another reads: "Please pick up wet towels and use them twice." A third warns: "Please be down for breakfast between seven and nine or no breakfast."

4) The prime minister should come briefed.

Mr Major's visit has political advantages for the president also. It enables him to pass off a long holiday as a working vacation. It is not inconceivable that he might take time off to discuss the Soviet Union, Iraq, future security arrangements, GATT and other pressing affairs of state.

5) With an election looming, the prime minister should exploit this visit for every last scrap of political mileage.

Walker's Point, built by Mr Bush's grandfather in 1902, is Mr Bush's heaven, his equivalent of the Kennedy's Hyannis Port, and the place to which he has returned every summer of his life save 1944 for spiritual and physical regeneration. Can anyone imagine Neil Kinnock being invited to share a holiday in the American president's private sanctum?

The prime minister should pitch horseshoes, attempt to fish, endure boat rides in choppy seas, in short do anything with Mr Bush that offers photo-opportunities and coverage on the evening news back home. Aides might also discreetly point out that Mrs Thatcher was only ever invited to Camp David. The standard explanation for that omission was conflicting schedules, but officials in Washington suggest privately that Mr Bush had more sense. "She'd have been so intimidating," said one; "all that lecturing and haranguing, and she'd never have got out of her Jaeger suit."

...and moreover MATTHEW PARRIS

Any bod-carrier could interview a Chancellor of the Exchequer, but no Chancellor, and only the most expert bod-carriers, could interview a bod-carrier. Yet career structure and salary scales in broadcasting reflect the opposite: the difficult interviews with tongue-tied housewives and labourers are given to novice reporters on £9,000 a year, while the easy banter with fluent celebrities goes to the big-name interviewers on £90,000.

Here, for all you bod-carriers, is a crash course in interviewing the Chancellor. Put it to him that the economy is ruined and his chancellorship in disarray. He will deny this. Ask him how he really expects struggling businessmen to believe that. He will avoid the question. Quote a recent CBI report (your researchers provide these) doubting the imminence of economic recovery. He will counter this with figures or forecasts of his own. Ask him if he is saying the CBI don't know their jobs. He will splutter.

It's a doddle, and you've got as long as it takes. Now, Chancellor, imagine interviewing the bod-carrier. He may well have something interesting to say, probably more interesting than you do. But "carried any interesting bods lately?" is unlikely to extract it. You have four minutes and no idea where to begin. The poor fellow is speechless and panicky-stricken, for he has never been interviewed before. As he is unheard of, his banalities are not engaging.

All over Britain, on local radio at any time of the day or night, trainee broadcasters are locked in hopeless interviews with workmen who were claiming to have witnessed a gas explosion — until the microphone was thrust into their faces and their minds went blank — and women whose cats have been accused of sheep-worrying and were jolly amusing about it — before the tape-recorder was switched on. Or deals like this are the daily lot of thrusting young roving reporters. The big-name interviewers are spared.

Except for a few, of whom Brian Hayes is king, I realise that he has made a speciality of on-air discussion with the general public but my clock radio woke me earlier this week to hear even Mr Hayes challenged to the limit.

Does somebody in the BBC hate Brian Hayes? Standing in for Derek Jameson, who is on holiday, he had been booted a gongly by his researchers. He was obliged to conduct an interview, over a bad telephone line, with a man whose hobby was carving wooden decoy ducks. The man's name (honestly) was Barry Woodcraft. I have no shorthand, but this was the gist of it.

"Good morning, Barry," said Hayes. "It's a funny old thing to have a passion for, isn't it?"

There was a wounded pause.

"It gets addictive," Hayes persisted. "But what do you do it for?"

"I enter them in the shows," Hayes decided to try a different tack.

"How did you know you were good at it?"

"I didn't, at first. I started 10 years ago."

No joy there, either. Very well.

"Are there classes for carving decoy ducks?"

"I took weekend tuition. After that I was self-taught."

"Do you know when you are getting better?"

"Yes."

By now Mr Hayes's voice betrayed a hint of desperation.

"When does it start to look like a duck?"

I was laughing too much to hear the answer.

"...better than the last." — Barry was loosening up now — "but there comes a point when you reach absolute perfection. I call it 'bird-perfect'. Of course none of my decoys is actually used as a decoy, for shooting I mean. That's a practice I abhor. But I show a lot. Hopefully I'll see more and more of my birds on show."

"And what do the judges look for?"

I had stopped giggling just in time to hear Mr Hayes saying: "All power to your elbow, goodby."

It left him in a bleak mood, as the sports commentator who came next found out. He had tipped in, bubbling over with news about transfers of footballers for astronomical fees.

Listeners could almost feel his interrogator's cold stare. "Yes. It's the silly season I suppose. Still, it gives us something to talk about and keeps you going, doesn't it?"

Well, come on: does it?

Sprouting elsewhere

Brussels is about to be up-staged as capital of Europe by an obscure Flemish village. When the Berlaymont is dismantled in the spring, high-ranking Eurocrats, including Jacques Delors, are being moved out of the city centre into offices in Auderghem, south of the city on the way to Luxembourg.

With city centre office space at a premium, the European Commission could only find suitable space for lower-ranking functionaries in the heart of Brussels. It had to search further afield for better premises for the top brass. The result is the reverse of what Antonio Cardoso E. Cunha, the energy commissioner, charged with the responsibility of rehousing the Eurocrats, was trying to achieve.

"We have got our very own version of Brazil: the cultural capital is Rio de Janeiro, but the administrative capital is Brasilia," says one bureaucrat. "We have got a EuroBrasilia."

The Commission will pay more than £6 million a year in rent for its eight-storey Auderghem building. It has an ideal office for Jacques Delors, overlooking a lake and landscaped gardens. Indeed, with its full-length atrium, it will make the commissioners wonder why they ever stayed in the Sixties moonolith — and indeed why they should ever return once its 20-storey replacement is built. Even the name is better: *Beau Lieu*.

Lord Clinton-Davis, a former EC commissioner, and one of the few fans of the Berlaymont, spent 45 minutes in a taxi from Brussels city centre reaching the new building, which already houses the transport directorate. "In terms of access to the other EC buildings it's awful, will be extremely awkward travelling between the new commission and the city."



Jeremy Corbyn, the left-wing Labour MP, is offering a reward of tea and cakes on the Commons terrace for the return of his car which was stolen for the second time in five months from outside his house. The last time it was taken it was used as a getaway car in a robbery.

Howe now, Moscow

After years in the wilderness Sir Geoffrey Howe is returning to the centre of the world stage for the first time next month with a high-profile trip to the Soviet Union. It will be his first official overseas visit since he was sacked as foreign secretary in July 1989.

Sir Geoffrey is heading an all-party delegation which will meet Mr Gorbachev, Valentin Pavlov, the Soviet prime minister, Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, and Eduard Shevardnadze, the former Soviet foreign minister. The delegation, from the Inter-Parliamentary Union, will hold talks in Moscow and Kiev on the reforms of the Soviet economy and the emergence of the new democratic parties. Mr Gorbachev was guest of the IPU in London 1984 when Mrs Thatcher declared he was a man she could do business with.

Sir Geoffrey will be given an extensive foreign office briefing before he flies out. According to friends he is relishing the opportunity

of re-establishing diplomatic contacts. Sir Geoffrey was more restrained. "I look forward to renewing my friendship with Mr Gorbachev. It will be hard work but I am looking forward to some interesting moments."

Class act

The karaoke craze sweeping British pubs has now arrived at a British university. The Japanese devised the entertainment, which allows anybody to sing well-known songs to a backing track, with lyrics displayed on a monitor. Now dons at Stirling, who are planning to use a karaoke machine to try to liven up their Japanese tutorials, will be the first to use the technique for academic purposes.

Students struggling to grasp the language will be able to practise getting their vocal chords around the Japanese version of *Love Me Do*, with the help of the machine.

Japanese millionaire Koichi Takakura is presenting the £3,500 equipment to the university next week. The university is the biggest centre for Japanese studies in Europe, and the obvious place for such a gift, according to the Takakura Foundation. Alan Forrester, for the university, says:

"Students struggling to grasp the language will be able to practise getting their vocal chords around the Japanese version of *Love Me Do*, with the help of the machine."

As Celtic rugby fans in some quarters lick their wounds over recent results, another is about to add his expertise to perestroika in the Soviet Union. The country's first international commercial adviser, the post going to Alex Kitgour, a Scotman, who cannot speak a word of Russian. He's learning.

هكذا من الأصل



AMERICA'S ANGER

Dick Cheney, the American defence secretary, warned President Saddam Hussein yesterday that he would be making "another big mistake" if he believed America and its allies lacked the stomach for further military action. The Pentagon has also been giving grisly testimony to the Congressional human-rights caucus. American prisoners taken during the Gulf war were beaten, had their bones broken, were threatened with mock executions and were jolted with electric shocks through their heads, making the tooth of one man explode in its socket.

Americans are rightly outraged. There is deep dissatisfaction that Saddam remains in power, with almost three quarters of those questioned in a recent poll saying the war should not have ended before he was toppled. The fruits of victory are turning sour. President Bush's popularity is falling and the administration's frustration is palpable.

Meanwhile Iraq has continued to prevaricate over United Nations demands under April's ceasefire resolution that it make full disclosure of all its nuclear capabilities and chemical and biological weapons facilities and stocks. American threats of renewed military action against these have evidently frightened Saddam. It was foolish of the Americans to set a deadline of July 25 for full disclosure and then lift it. But Iraq had ignored the UN's own earlier deadline. The American ultimatum did force Iraq to release some data. So long as information continues to flow, America would be unwise actually to carry out its threats.

Keeping Saddam guessing is a good tactic. To deprive Iraq of all weapons of mass destruction is an agreed international priority, and force is the only thing Saddam respects. But the US will forfeit allied support should it go beyond that objective. It is one thing to prepare for a new strike against Iraq should that be needed to knock out such weapons. It would be quite another if this were a mere pretext, the real aim being to precipitate the overthrow of the Iraqi dictator.

Clarity in this matter is essential. The European allies have no wish to become embroiled in another round of fighting, and have made that plain to Washington. The

focus has now shifted back to the United Nations. The international community has been angered by Saddam's contemptuous treatment of the special commission. The Security Council must now endorse the UN's new plan for stringent controls and unrestricted access for UN inspectors.

Britain has played a main role in drawing up two new draft Security Council resolutions. One lays down draconian details how Iraq must co-operate with the special commission, and how its remaining missiles and capacity to manufacture banned weapons are to be destroyed. The other, largely French-inspired, is intended to set very tight controls on any renewed Iraqi oil sales.

The revenue is to go into a UN escrow account, with half that freed for UN-supervised purchases of food and medicines. These must be fairly distributed. In practice it will be hard for the UN to prevent the Iraqi army commandeering supplies. But Saddam must understand that if one mouthful is proved to have been diverted to the military, oil sales will be blocked, forthwith.

These resolutions are intended to deal with the unfinished business of the war. But they leave unanswered the question what to do about Saddam himself. The West wants him out. So do most Arabs, including most Iraqis. Margaret Thatcher voices public regret that he was allowed to remain in office. His brutality towards the Kurds and the Shia Muslims and his gloating consolidation of power continue. But bombing him out of office, even if that were possible, would be wrong. The West can no more afford now to make him a "martyr" than it could during the conflict.

Dismantling Iraq's nuclear and chemical weapons will be a slow, arduous process. It can be done if the new UN resolutions are carried through. The threat of force must remain a credible option. But nothing yet justifies renewed bombing. Whatever Mr Bush's frustrations, America must exercise its leadership through the Security Council and with its support. The UN must continue to throttle the country's recovery until the Iraqis manage to tear away the dog that has them by the throat.

OPENING BRITISH DOORS

British politics are notoriously partisan and secret. The politics of the BCCI affair have simply highlighted the complaints of those who despair at this. The message has been rubbed in by the electrifying performance of the American Senate sub-committee on foreign relations investigating BCCI. The footage of that hearing first filled our television screens on the day it emerged that Lord Justice Bingham's enquiry into BCCI will be held in private and under the auspices of the Bank of England and the Treasury — the very bodies that most want a whitewash.

Today's report in *The Times* that the Director of Public Prosecutions turned down a police proposal to prosecute BCCI six years ago only goes to show how easily in Britain key decisions are kept hidden. One cannot imagine the British police appearing in front of MPs to parade their evidence in the way that American investigators so gleefully did before Congress.

When the Treasury select committee heard from Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, last month, MPs put up a good performance. This compared favourably with the juvenile "yes-you-did, no-I-didn't" squabble on the floor of the House the same day. Yet still the questions were boringly party political: Labour members wanted Mr Leigh-Pemberton to back up their contention that the government was to blame; Tory MPs, led by the committee chairman, Terence Higgins, wanted to prevent this.

In the Senate sub-committee, by contrast, Republicans were as searching in their questions as Democrats. Both sides were better informed than their British counterparts, thanks partly to their huge staff and their investigatory powers. No senator tried to steal the limelight at the expense of the others. They were working together as a

team to uncover the truth. The difference lies mainly in the two systems of government. Separation of powers in America allows members of Congress to criticise the executive, even if the president happens to sport the same political colours. In Britain, an MP's only hope of career advancement is to ingratiate party managers — and that means being "helpful" and "sound". Moreover, in America, an independent Federal Reserve Board can absorb flak that, under British all-encompassing government, flows back from the Bank of England to the prime minister via the Treasury.

Separation of powers in the United States ensures a higher calibre of committee member there, too. Americans aiming for high-ranking administration jobs are under no pressure to serve first in Congress. Many representatives and senators want no truck with the executive. The peak of their career is to serve on, eventually to chair, one of the powerful committees. Ambitious MPs, however, want to become parliamentary private secretaries, not select committee members.

If the Treasury committee is constitutionally incapable of doing a proper job of investigating the BCCI affair, all the more reason for Lord Justice Bingham's enquiry to display the openness, independence and inquisitorial powers that shame Britain from across the Atlantic. Paddy Ashdown was right yesterday to call for the enquiry to be given greater powers and for the arms of secrecy to be drawn back. There should be power to take evidence on oath, and to compel witnesses to attend. If there is evidence that has to be taken *in camera* for reasons of commercial sensitivity, so be it. Otherwise, the enquiry should be tough-minded and independent, and wide open to public scrutiny.

INERTIAE DULCEDO

Exercise does nothing for stress, Dutch scientists have discovered. Comparisons of the stress levels of the fitness freak with the lounge lizard have disproved the rumour that a workout eases tension. Their research, which broke surface only a couple of days ago, is bad news for busy executives who had already booked an energetic holiday. But there are no grounds for smugness, from their workaholic colleagues who refuse to take a break at all. A recent survey of personnel managers shows that 90 per cent of them think not taking holidays is bad for business, leading to absenteeism or worse.

So what fuels this obsession with hard labour? Charles Darwin and television, most likely. Out there, in a place called Nature, there is constant warfare, or so television wildlife programmes imply. Darwin's principle of the survival of the fittest translates to the small screen as a permanent night-and-day industry of hunting and killing. So how can a busy executive expect to survive if he defies the law of the jungle: never turn your back, kill or be killed?

But the real law of the jungle is the very opposite: quiet please, everybody's asleep! From a TV producer's angle, however, three quarters of an hour of a lion snoring in the sun will get nowhere in the ratings. So over to ants frantically eating beetles. When they fall asleep too, cue hawks swooping. If the bees are not busy, give them a stir. And the reality of jungle life — long intervals of nothing at all interrupted by rare spasms of action — is dumped in the cutting room bin.

American biologists have now measured what animals actually do when they are not on camera. They have found what everybody who owns a domestic cat could have told them for free. "We would all be idle if we could," claimed Samuel Johnson. Cats and their cousins need no urging.

The lion lies sprawled for 12 hours a day, then sleeps it off at night. Even worker ants, very Stakhanovites of the natural world, spend 80 per cent of their time leaning on a shovel. The "hard day at the office" of a short-tailed shrew is two-thirds total inactivity, and even the howling monkey likes to spend 70 per cent of its waking hours not howling, just resting. Far from being lazy, the sloth's 15 hours a day wondering whether to scratch an ear is typical — and compared with the spadefoot toad's 11 out of 12 months per year just sitting there, positively restless.

Humans are the ridiculous exception. "Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do" (Isaac Watts) is the righteous motto of the Protestant ethic, just as "In the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread" was the curse of Adam. Even the seventh day is not for relaxing but for feeling uneasy about it, pottering around looking for relief. Now American biologists have shown the survival value of bone idleness — for nothing in nature is by accident — a summer journey to the beach and sun need no longer be a guilt trip. It is a chance to savour what Tacitus called "the sweetness of being idle".

Heseltine's plans for London parks

From Baroness Jeger of St Pancras

Sir, I share the anxieties of your correspondents (July 27) about the threatened privatisation of the royal parks. But there is another aspect which reflects darkly on the attitude of the secretary of state to Parliament.

Mr Heseltine arranged for these drastic and ill-considered proposals to be announced in a written statement in both Houses on July 18 (report, July 20; letters, July 27). Written statements cannot, at the time, be debated or questioned in Parliament. The minister must have been working on his plans for some time. But he waits until Parliament is about to rise until Parliament 14. This means that they will escape parliamentary scrutiny at least until then.

In reply to a question I asked in the House of Lords on July 25 the minister of state, Baroness Blatch, said that the contracting out of the private sector "of the ground maintenance and related work" takes place from February 1992. This means that preparation of tenders and the letting of contracts must be under way.

When Parliament reassembles on October 14 there will be the usual rush of over-spill work to be completed before Parliament is prorogued. Then a gap until the state opening, usually in November. So tight a timetable cannot be regarded as democratic.

Baroness Blatch also said that provision for expenditure for the royal parks for 1991-2 had been agreed at £20.6 million, covering administration, maintenance of grounds and buildings, and policing. (It is not clear whether the figures quoted would include workers' redundancy payments.)

Then why a rush to change fiscal arrangements by February? Why not allow the present experienced and loyal staff to carry on at their high standards, at least until the review group to be chaired by Dame Jennifer Jenkins has completed its proposals — some of which may well be pre-empted if the contractors are already on site?

What are the reasons for these unlovely changes? The answer can only be found in illiterate dogma. I cannot find any deafening public demand for commercial interference in the running of these mature, beautiful parks.

The government may side-step Parliament but it cannot totally ignore public opinion; it would not fit in with the ideals of the prime minister's citizen's charter. It must be hoped that the protests will be reasoned and strong enough to make Mr Heseltine realise that even he cannot do exactly what he likes to the citizens' cherished places. Or can he?

Yours sincerely,
LENA M. JEGGER,
House of Lords,
July 31.

Little brown birds

From Mr W. G. McPherson

Sir, The writer of your third leader of July 30 must be a clone of the apocryphal journalist who wrote of the moors on August 12, "echoing to the crack of the rifle" — their expertise in fieldcraft is equally profound. The down-trodden Scottish peasantry do not "beat away the coppers" on August 12 to flush out "little brown birds"; the down-trodden English peasantry do that, in October, to flush out a bigger and gaudier bird — known as the "pheasant" — sole output of the gamekeeper, who nurtures it from birth to death.

The "little" (little is a comparative term) "brown bird" of your writer is called a "grouse", although the literate Scottish peasant insists on calling it *Lagopus lagopus scoticus*. It rears its kind on the moors without the help of any man, except for the annual festival known as the "Feeding of the Chicks". This takes place on April 1, when the keepers round the moors with pailfuls of mash (haggis and whisky in equal proportions) of which each chick receives a teaspoonful, along with a pinch of salt.

Yours faithfully,
W. G. MCPHERSON,
37 Gannary Street,
Huntly, Aberdeenshire.

Pension fund snags

From Mr Christopher Bryans

Sir, Sir Michael Ogden's article (Law Times, July 23) highlights a profound problem for those who have made prudent provisions for their retirement by using pensions which offer a return on death before retirement of their original pension contribution (sometimes with interest added at a prescribed amount). The more recent practice has instead permitted a return of fund.

This difference really needs to be illustrated to be fully appreciated. In a recent case I examined, annual premiums of £800 had been paid over a number of years, the fund value stood at £36,602 whilst the claim value upon early death was just £13,746.

However, there is an advantage for those who survive to retirement with return-of-contribution policies and consequently the cost of switching to a return-of-fund basis can be far from insignificant.

With many return-of-contribution policies the misfortune of one policyholder who does not survive to retirement effectively benefits the surviving policyholders who share in the profits of the pension fund.

Bar codes in the British line-up

From the Secretary General of the Article Number Association (UK) Ltd.

Sir, Your leader, "Drawing a line at bar codes" (July 27), calls for all bar codes to be made decipherable. In fact, the data in the bar code are printed below the bars and in most cases this number has no meaning; it is simply a unique identification number.

Information about the product, such as its price, size or country of origin, is held in a computer and recalled by reference to the bar code number.

Numbers issued from our number bank in the UK start with 50, but this does not mean the products using these numbers are made in Britain. We can issue numbers to foreign companies, just as UK companies and multinationals can use numbers from other number banks. The "patriotic purchaser" you mention could therefore be misled by reading too much into the code.

There are exceptions, where codes do carry some information. Codes on newspapers carry a week number, day number and price indicator as your science editor has accurately described (report, July 30).

Goods sold by weight have a code incorporating the price. The vast majority of product codes, however, are non-significant identifiers.

There is no secrecy about any of this. It is merely a simple system of product identification designed to improve information on the distribution of goods and thereby improve the service provided to consumers.

Yours sincerely,
A. T. OSBORNE,
Secretary General,
Article Number Association (UK) Ltd.,
6 Catherine Street, WC2.

From Mr T. J. Roche

Sir, Bar codes were not designed to hide information from shoppers, but to increase the amount of information available. I would rather trust an itemised list receipt, calculated automatically from up-to-date information, than one made up from a series of price labels read and keyed in by a bored sales assistant.

If it is necessary for the public to decipher the codes (and I can't see the real need for this, as the prices are always shown on the shelves) perhaps the answer is a simple device to read the code and display the price. Retailers could make these

available in the store as they do with weighing machines.

Yours etc.,
T. J. ROCHE,
Woodydene, Dingle Lane,
Appleton, Warrington, Lancashire.

From Mrs P. R. Fletcher

Sir, I can accept the bar code on a can or a packet which is soon to be thrown away, but is it necessary for our books and records to be permanently marked in this unsightly way?

Surely the designers of the covers must object to their work being spoilt.

Yours sincerely,
P. R. FLETCHER,
16 Taunton Road, Sale, Cheshire.

From Mr G. C. J. Kiang

Sir, It is not necessarily true (your report on bar codes) that leap years have 53 weeks or that ordinary years only have 52. This year, in fact, will have 53 weeks and 1996 will have only 52. The first week of the new year is the one that includes January 4. Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM KIANG,
24 Coombe Wood Hill,
Purley, Surrey.

From Mr Michael J. Banks

Sir, I shall have to take your science editor's word for it that the mathematics of the bar code "have a certain elemental beauty" pending an explanation of it written neither by a scientist nor a mathematician. Yours faithfully,
M. J. BANKS,
121 Huddleston Road, N7.

From Mr Stephen Humphreys

Sir, The report and your leader reminded me of the following verses from the New Testament: The beast forced all the people, small and great, rich and poor, slave and free, to have a mark placed on their right hands or on their foreheads. No one could buy or sell unless he had this mark. (Revelations 13:16-17 (Good News Bible)). Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN HUMPHREYS,
6 Langfield Close,
Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire.

From Mrs Judy Spector

Sir, Surely the bar code should include *The Times* sell-by date? Yours faithfully,
JUDY SPECTOR,
Jasmin House, Sutton Crescent,
Barnet, Hertfordshire.

A question of care

From the Editor of Community Care

Sir, One part of the citizen's charter (details, July 23) would allow people with a learning difficulty or physical disability the right to independent representation where necessary.

Three months ago it was officially announced that the government would not implement sections 1-3 of the Disabled Persons Act 1986, giving disabled people the statutory right to independent representation in their dealings with the health or local authority.

It was argued that the costs were prohibitive and that the same rights were available under the NHS and Community Care Act 1990. However, the costs have been reliably estimated at £6 million, or 75p a week for every disabled person represented, because advocates

would continue to work, as they do now, voluntarily.

Neither is it true that later legislation has made the sections superfluous. A disabled person will have the right to representation only "if it appears" to the local authority that there is a need (a phrase as dangerously vague as the charter's "where necessary").

If Mr Major is serious about citizens' rights for two of the most vulnerable groups in society he has only to show that the government is as concerned for the rights of disabled people as it is for protecting the interests of British Rail season-ticket holders by reversing this decision.

Yours faithfully,
TERRY PHILPOT, Editor,
Community Care,
Quadrant House, The Quadrant,
Sutton, Surrey.

Navy know-how

From Mr N. W. Furneaux

Sir, As a Royal Navy pensioner, I have been interested in the concern expressed by the British army over the regimental system. In the navy it was quite normal for the lower deck to move from ship to ship about every three years, a completely new ship's company being commissioned on each occasion. A new command frequently improved performance.

After commissioning and after a working-up period of several months of intensive training the ship was accepted into the fleet. During this period the ship's company achieved an *esprit de corps*, often including rivals from other ships, that was second to none — competition was the byword.

Yours faithfully,
N. W. FURNEAUX,
6 Woburn Court,
Marine Parade East,
Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire.

Youth theatre fund

From Mr Donald King

Sir, Mr Edward Wilson, artistic director of the National Youth Theatre, says that he is tempted to put an Arts Council grant of £5,000 "on the council's doorstep in penance" (report, July 28). If he is so contemptuous of this offer from the taxpayer then, as a taxpayer, would he not sleep if he declined it?

Mr Wilson should remember, too, that the large grant of £50,000 from the Department of Education and Science also comes from the taxpayer's pocket. I suppose the Treasury is satisfied as to the propriety of a single activity being supported by what are, in effect, two Exchequer grants?

Yours faithfully,
DONALD KING,
Greenways, Cray Road,
Crockenhill,
Swarley, Kent,
July 29.

The sum assured from commencement can be calculated to take into account part of this mortality expectation.

Consequently, to switch from one basis of death in service to another can seriously erode the value of the fund. I have recently seen such switches with National Provident Institution (NPI) and Scottish Widows where the "cost" has been a reduction in the fund of between 17 and 18 per cent.

Policyholders who have return-of-contribution type pension funds should act with caution.

Yours faithfully,
C. R. BRYANS (Director),
C. W. Financial Services Ltd.,
Devonshire House,
1 Devonshire Street, W1.

From Mr K. E. O. Griffiths

Sir, Sir Michael Ogden is right in advising barriers, and indeed others, to take advice on their insurance and pension arrangements. He is not quite right in saying that until the early 1980s all policies provided that in case of death before taking pension, insurers would pay only the return of premiums plus perhaps interest at 4 or 5 per cent.

Now, as then, it may be wise, in

taking advice as Sir Michael recommends, to consult independent, professional, insurance specialists.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH GRIFFITHS
(Founder partner),
Griffiths and Armour,
Drury House,
19 Water Street,
Liverpool 2,
July 24.

From Mr C. G. Trimmer

Sir, The European Court of Justice (article, July 22) holds that occupational pension schemes are pay. Why then should a widow, as in many cases she does, lose her pension from her former husband if she remarries, any more than any other of her property? Or is this really a subtle protection for her from the avaricious predatory male, or a deterrent to gold-digging widows?

True equity would seem to be elusive as well as expensive. Yours faithfully,
CHARLES G. TRIMMER,
38 Houndean Rise,
Lewes, Sussex,
July 23.

Weekend Money letters, page 26

Tombs imperilled by Tangier road

From Miss Stephanie Sweet

Sir, Walter Harris, *The Times* correspondent in Morocco from 1887 until 1932, the year before he died, lies buried in St Andrew's churchyard in Tangier. Today, his grave, like those of several other eminent men, is threatened with destruction, since plans are far advanced for a thoroughfare to be driven through the churchyard.

The importance of this site transcends, however, purely British interests. The land was given to her Majesty's government by Sultan Hassan I in 1883 that a church might be built there. On his visits to Morocco in 1912 and 1913 Henri Matisse was much taken with the view of the church and its surroundings and made drawings and paintings of it from his hotel window. Some of these were recently on show in Washington, New York, Moscow and Leningrad.

May it be hoped that distinguished men of today point out the need to preserve this site, which is a tribute to the tolerance, hospitality and generosity of Morocco?

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
STEPHANIE SWEET,
23 Avenue Melmes,
Rabat, Morocco,
July 31.

Parish costs

From Major J. R. Hunter

Sir, Michael Stagg, of our Norwich diocese (July 26), gives insurance the lowest priority for a parish, but premiums have to be paid and have become one of our biggest headaches.

We are a small rural parish with a medieval church. The proportion of our insurance premium to general expenditure has risen in 30 years from 7 per cent to 15 per cent. We had a gift day recently which raised £600 — not enough to pay our premium of £717.

Some outside help in the insurance of these ancient monuments of national importance would be much appreciated by the smaller rural parishes not surrounded by affluence.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. HUNTER
(Honorary Treasurer, Geldeston parochial church council),
Green Farm,
Geldeston,
Beccles, Suffolk,
July 30.

Siege machine

From Mr John Carter

Sir, It was with great interest and pleasure that I read the letter from Mr Charles Harris (July 25) concerning the trebuchet. His account demonstrates admirably that one should never accept, without question, the opinion of academics. My money is on the field study every time.

Incidentally, if I were besieged and subjected to a bombardment of dead pigs and upright pinars, there is no question: I should "parley" immediately. The human mind can only accept so much.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CARTER,
Sous La Castel, Aigaliers,
30700 Uzès,
Gard, France,
July 28.

Noises off

From Mrs E. V. Mercer Banks

Sir, One of your correspondents (August 1) deplores the ceaseless "talking, joking and shouting" by "the masses" during the Pavarotti concert. Could this be because they did not realise that the concert had started?

My partner and I also left early as it was quite simply a waste of time. A wonderful idea: please, Mr Goldsmith, more opera for the masses, but next time more attention to the acoustics. Lessons from Wembley perhaps?

Yours, now dry,
ELISABETH MERCER BANKS,
118 Duncombe Road,
Beagoe, Hertford,
August 1.

From Mr Adrian Brodtkin

Sir, Do I detect in today's letter the ugly face of opera elitism rearing its head yet again?

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN BRODCKIN,
93 Kingsley Way, N2,
August 1.

BCC and I?

From Mrs Aisha Henthorn

Sir, About the BCCI logo puzzle (letter, August 2), presumably it contains the blind eye which was apparently turned.

Yours faithfully,
AISHA HENTHORN,
Oxhey View,
Watford, Hertfordshire,
August 2.

From Mr Michael Jones

Sir, Forget the missing "I", where are the missing millions?

Yours faithfully,
M. JONES,
47c Fairhaz Gardens, NW6,
August 2.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
August 2: The Lord Ashburton was received by the Queen and delivered up the insignia of the Order of the Garter worn by his father, the late Lord Ashburton. Mr. David Blatherwick was received in audience by the Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Dublin.

Mrs. Blatherwick was also received by the Queen. His Excellency Dr. Albert Butros was received in audience by the Queen and took leave upon his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Court of St. James's.

His Excellency Mr. Victor Camilleri and Mrs. Camilleri were received in audience by the Queen and took leave upon his appointment as High Commissioner for Malta in London.

The Queen this afternoon opened the Lynsop Sports and Leisure Centre at King's Lynn.

Her Majesty was received by the Lord-Lieutenant for Norfolk (Mr. Timothy Colman) and Mrs. Eva Kemp (Mayor of King's Lynn and West Norfolk).

The Queen then toured the Centre, viewed sporting activities in progress, and presented the first annual Lynsop Athletics of the Year Award to Mr. William Trespardner.

Afterwards, Her Majesty unveiled a commemorative plaque after which the building was blessed by the Right Reverend David Bentley (Bishop of Lynn).

The Right Hon. Sir Robert Folkes was in attendance. **BUCKINGHAM PALACE**
August 2: The Prince Edward today visited the Children's Film Unit during the filming of *How's Business* on location near Havertill, Suffolk.

Mrs. Richard Warburton was in attendance. **KENSINGTON PALACE**
August 2: The Prince of Wales opened the Cricket School in the grounds of Arundel Castle, West Sussex.

His Royal Highness was received by Major-General Sir Philip Ward (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex).

Lieutenant-Commander Robert Fraser RN was in attendance. **Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother celebrates her birthday tomorrow.**

Tomorrow's royal engagements
The Prince of Wales will attend a dinner to mark the start of the course at his summer school in civil architecture at Magdalen College, Oxford, at 7.30.

Prince Edward will visit the Boy's Brigade International Centre at Hazelhead Park, Aberdeen, at 11.

Retirements
Judge Crocker retired from the Circuit Bench on the South Eastern Circuit yesterday, and Judge Kellock, QC, retired from the Circuit Bench on the Midland and Oxford Circuit.

Appointment
Mr. Roger Suddards to be Honorary Solicitor of the Royal Town Planning Institute.

Painting shown to be artist's gift
A watercolour acquired by the National Museum of Wales has been found to be a Christmas present from the artist David Jones to Eric Gill and his wife in 1926-7.

An inscription showing it to be a gift was discovered during conservation work. The painting shows Capel-y-Ffin near Llanthony Abbey, Aberavenny where he stayed with the Gills periodically between 1924-28. The work is on show at the museum in Cardiff until August 11.

Forthcoming marriages
Mr. N.M.A. Barker and Miss C.A. Ogden. The engagement is announced between Nicolas, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Barker, of East Preston, West Sussex, and Mrs. Laura Ogden, of St. Peter, Gloucester.

Mr. L.D.D. Cox and Miss L.R. Parkinson. The engagement is announced between Ian David Deltos, son of Mr. and Mrs. Denis Cox, of Southampton, and Laura Rachel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Parkinson, of Solihull.

Mr. T.J. Dorey and Miss M.D. Krickhas. The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mrs. Katharine D. Thompson, of Gurnsey, and the late Mr. Peter Dorey, of Mildred, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Krickhas, of Winnipeg, Canada.

Mr. J.S. Goffar and Miss P.F. Carrington. The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mrs. Joan Goffar and the late Mr. John Goffar, of London, and Patricia, eldest daughter of Lord and Lady Francis Russell, of London.

Mr. C.S. Jacoby and Miss D.J. Windsor. The engagement is announced between Curtis Simon, only son of Mr. and Mrs. H.G. Jacoby, of Finchley, London, and Davina June, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. David Windsor, of Epping, Essex.

Mr. M.J. MacClancy and Miss M.E.A. Millison. The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Mr. James MacClancy, of Cardiff, and Mrs. Mary MacClancy, also of Cardiff, and Mary, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Derek Mallinson, of Eastbourne.

Marriages
Mr. D.H. Cavendish-Pell and Miss E.A. Rosch. The marriage took place at Christ Church, Port Sunlight, Wirral, on August 2, between Derek Cavendish-Pell and Elizabeth Rosch.

Mr. J.M.C. Evans and Dr. S.C. Parkhurst. The marriage took place on July 20, at All Saints Church, Witley, between Mr. John Meric Charles (Chuck) Evans, eldest son of Sir Charles and Lady Evans, of Ardingley, Capel Curig, and Dr. S. Caroline Parkhurst, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Parkhurst, of Hangerfield, Witley.

The bride was given away by her father and was attended by Caley, Eleanor and James Parkhurst. Mr. Nick Burnell was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr. J. de C. Guillaume and Mrs. P.M. Dames-Longworth. The marriage took place on Saturday, July 27, in Bath, Ardingley, Capel Curig, and Dr. S. Caroline Parkhurst, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Parkhurst, of Hangerfield, Witley.

The bride was given away by

OBITUARIES

CHARLES SMITH



Dr Charles Stuart Smith, a deputy chief scientific officer at the Admiralty Research Establishment, Dunfermline, died of cancer on July 13 aged 55. He was born on April 21, 1936.

Charles Smith was a structural naval architect who did important work on the structure and design of warships in the 1960s and 1970s and later used his expertise as an adviser on the safety of North Sea oil platforms.

In the late 1960s and the 1970s the Royal Navy was committed to developing glass reinforced plastics (GRP) for mine counter-measure vessels to replace its non-magnetic wooden minesweepers. Smith took charge of much of the required research and development on these new materials whose different properties, modes of failure and so on required large-scale experimental verification and the development of a whole new approach to thinking in relation to structural design and safety.

The success of the research work owed much to Smith's brilliance and found extensive applications in three generations of ships - HMS *Wilton*, the first glass reinforced plastic warship; and the Hunt class and the Sandown class of mine hunters.

Smith worked on other types of surface ship design and in-service assessments which benefited the Type 42 destroyers and Type 21 frigates. He also helped to develop the concept of lightweight, low-cost glass reinforced plastics or hybrid steel/GRP superstructures and deck houses. This led to active collaboration with the US and Canadian navies and will set trends for the future.

Charles Smith came partly from highland droving stock and was educated at George Watson's College and Glasgow University where he took a BSc, a PhD and a DSc. He joined the Admiralty Research Establishment, Dunfermline, in October 1962. He remained there throughout his career, apart from one year (1966-67) when he had an exchange posting at the David Taylor Naval Ship Research and Development Center, Washington.

His life's work concerned ship structural design, operation and safety. He developed and applied advanced theories for solving the complicated structural behaviour of ships, in order to evolve practical and economic designs for successive generations of naval vessels. He had a flair for dealing with difficult matters and for presenting the results in a form which could be readily understood and used by practising naval construction.

David Elwyn Lloyd Jones, MC, under-secretary of state in the Department of Education and Science, 1969-80, has died aged 70. He was born on October 20, 1920.

David Lloyd Jones was a resourceful soldier and far-sighted civil servant. Against the Japanese in Burma he fought fiercely and successfully to win a Military Cross that was awarded as much for his leadership as for his personal action. As a civil servant, he was in a position to help develop polytechnics which he saw as a means of bringing higher education to more people than making for a better qualified workforce.

Though so important to him later in his career, education was not his first choice. He was born in Aberystwyth and went to Ardwy Grammar School and the University College of Wales.

From his maternal grandfather, a marine engineer who spent his life in Calcutta, he acquired an early and lasting fascination with India. By the time he went to university he had decided to make his career in the Indian Civil Service. Foiled by the outbreak of war, but still pursuing this ultimate aim, he joined the Indian Army and after Sandhurst was posted to the 1st Battalion of the newly created Assam Regiment, then part of the forward screen defending India after the fall of Burma.

The citation for his MC recorded how Major Lloyd Jones planned and carried out, in conjunction with patriotic Burmese forces working under his instructions, an ambush in which 300 Japanese were prevented from crossing the river Sittoung on rafts and large numbers were shot and drowned. He served continuously with his battalion for three years in the field, 14 months of which were spent in close contact with the enemy. After the war Lloyd Jones became secretary of the Assam Regiment's reunion club and dedicated himself to maintaining links not only between the British and Indian officers of his time, but with the successive generations.

Indian independence meant a change of mind about his career and he entered the Civil Service. He chose the education ministry and never regretted his decision. He spent a brief period at the beginning of the 1960s as principal private secretary to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which he relished not only because of the insight it gave into the broader range of government but also for the fund of hilarious stories provided by the then Chancellor, ex-radio doctor Charles Hill.

The central commitment of his life was to education. Between 1961 and 1969 he was an assistant secretary, acting first as deputy account general within his department and then taking responsibility under ministers for the full range of non-university further and higher education. The central focus of his activity and his major achievement in these years was helping to create the British polytechnic system. He saw the expansion of the polytechnic system as a way of reducing the disturbing gap in qualification levels between Britain and many other Western societies.

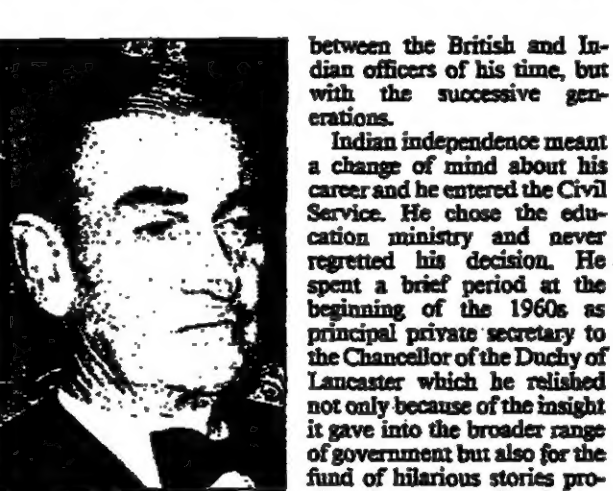
He had, as a civil servant, a high regard for the talent of some of the ministers and secretaries of state that he worked for. But, as he saw it, the high turnover of ministers hindered effectiveness. In his period at the department the average tenure of office of a secretary of state for education was less than two years, scarcely giving anyone time to master the brief before moving to another job. After his retirement he advised with considerable sadness the changes in the educational scene. Central control appeared to him to be becoming stronger and the era of expansion replaced by severe cuts in funding.

Some notes he left reveal a good deal of his thinking on education. Maybe, he wrote, there is a reversion to basic English cynicism about education. "As David Lloyd George put it: 'The Welsh have a passion for education, the Scots a respect for it, and the English an objection to it.' Perhaps," he continued, "we need an injection of Welsh passion to restore the traditional belief in education and to see through these grim years of recession."

There were other interests in retirement he served on the councils of the Froebel Institute, the Royal Academy of Dancing and the Royal College of Music; and he loved exploring the country roads and small hotels of France. But perhaps his greatest pleasure was golf.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth.

DAVID LLOYD JONES



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JOHN GUISE

John Guise, headmaster and cricketer, has died, aged 87. He was born in Calcutta on November 25, 1903.

John Guise will be remembered as the holder of a record score in public schools cricket. His 278 for Winchester against Eton in 1921 remains unbeaten to this day. Despite Guise's score Eton still went on to win.

Guise later captained the Oxford University side in 1925 and, during subsequent years in India, opened the batting for All India against the MCC touring side in 1927, scoring 92. However, the match in which Guise made his name remains remarkable for his almost single-handed endeavour. In the first of Winchester's two innings, he scored only eight out of a total of 57 and took one wicket for 63 with his testily lighted spinners. Eton looked overwhelming with a first innings score of 255. Besides they had the fast bowling of G. O. ("Gubby") Allen and when Guise walked out to open Winchester's second innings, they looked beaten. But Guise would have none of it. His hooking of the fast bowling was particularly devastating and he scored 45 runs.

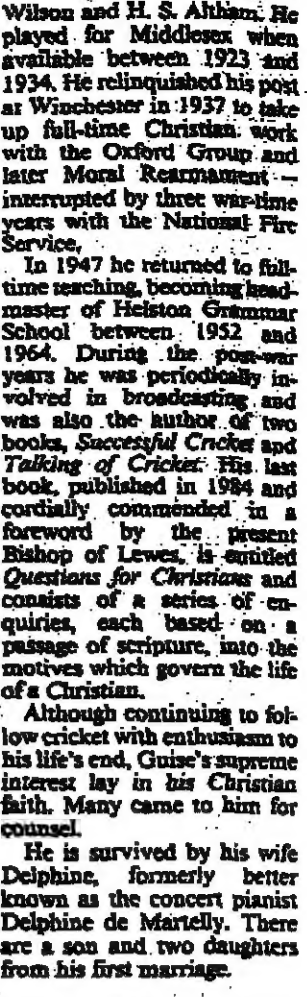
But he could not have achieved his vast score if he had not skillfully nursed his partners. For more than four hours he was at the wicket and when lunch came on the second day of the match he was on 243 with the score 345 for nine. After lunch he made a further 35 and took the score to 381; but, still trying to keep the bowling, he was run out by a throw from deep square leg that took him by surprise. The second highest score in the innings was 21. Allen took four for 74. Eton won because they got 184 for three wickets in the second innings.

A few years later Guise joined the staff at Winchester College where he was in charge of cricket, following E. R. Wilson and H. S. Ashiam. He played for Middlesex when available between 1923 and 1934. He relinquished his post as Winchester in 1937 to take up full-time Christian work with the Oxford Group and later Moral Re-arming - interrupted by three war-time years with the National Fire Service.

In 1947 he returned to full-time teaching, becoming headmaster of Heston Grammar School between 1952 and 1964. During the post-war years he was periodically involved in broadcasting, and was also the author of two books, *Successful Cricket* and *Talking of Cricket*. His last book, published in 1984 and cordially commended in a foreword by the present Bishop of Lewes, is entitled *Questions for Christians and Christians*, each based on a passage of scripture, into the motives which govern the life of a Christian.

Although continuing to follow cricket with enthusiasm to his life's end, Guise's supreme interest lay in his Christian faith. Many came to him for counsel.

He is survived by his wife Delphine, formerly better known as the concert pianist Delphine de Martelly. There are a son and two daughters from his first marriage.



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THE REV DR ALEC VIDLER

Gym'll fix it for the boss

This lass will also have to break the news to clients about their personal programme. "Good morning, Sir Ralph: you're on sheep-dagging today, aren't you?" Or, "Sir James, you'll find 20 piskies in the sty. Yes, some of

If all this sounds demanding, it is. Executives say of their personal training sessions that it is the first 30 seconds that are the worst. Of the programme I have in mind, fellow farmers tell me it's the first 30 years.



Home from home:
Sandy Cairns

An *Acer palmatum* "Blood-good" in the centre makes a focus for the other plants with its strength of colour and delicate leaf. The yellow bells of a *Clematis orientalis* "Bill Mackenzie" overhang the front door, waiting for a *Hydrangea petiolaris* on the other side to catch up. Between the



The Reverend Sandy Cairns, an enthusiastic gardener, outside his Cotswolds house: "I try to spend a decent chunk of August here," he says.

The house is larger than its small, stone-mullioned, leaded-light windows suggest. A handsome plain stone chimney piece in the sitting-room now houses an American log-burning stove. The little Victorian bedroom fireplace in the dining-room was added when the house was divided at the turn of the century. There was no

Although he was brought up in England, Mr Cairns's family came from Aberdeenshire. "My grandfather's farm now languishes beneath the runways of Aberdeen airport," he says. His father's family were name-makers from

here much of the time. "I try to spend a decent chunk of August here and I get a week after Christmas and a week after Easter. What makes all the difference, though, is the fact that the house is only 90 minutes from

There is no shop and no pub in his village, the nearest pub being a healthy 100-mile tramp through the fields. "I know the pathway pretty well," he says.

ELIMED PRICE

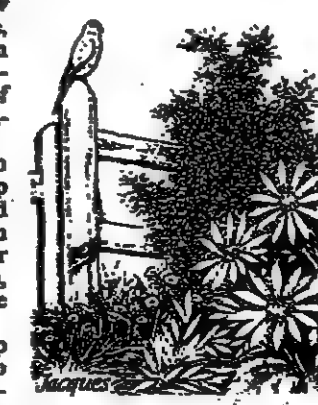
Four years
Gauntlett v
3am at his
home with the

10-11-54

Available from Boots, Holland and Barrett and all leading chemists, and health food stores.



instead of being hayed once a season, they are cropped three



working their land in a method sympathetic to conservation. The countryside in one sense belongs to all of us; but we must pay for that privilege. These unimproved grasslands bring us more than the

SIMON BARNES

- For campaign details, and information about your local nature trust, contact RSNC, The Green, Witham Park, Waterside South, Lincoln LN5 7JR.
- What's About Birds? — check flocks of south-bound lamings

Twinklers - Caspian tern commuting between Breydon Water and Hickling Broad, Norfolk. Three little egret at Porlock, Somerset. Details from Birdline 0591 700222.

Hence was born simulated game shooting. Mr Gauntlett's idea was to re-create the real thing, but for the killing. The "game" would be clay pigeons, but a day's sport would take place over classic game shooting countryside, organised in drives

... normally two
lots of three, sepa-
rated by a fine lunch served in
a period manor house, with
tea later. Dress would be "as
for the field" (tweed jackets,
plus fairs, *et al*) and every gun
would have a leader

Realising the vision meant access to a string of beautiful estates throughout Britain. Four criteria governed the selection process: the estates had to be undulating and well wooded, be graced with a

A few weeks ago I tested the reproduction courtesy of the Alternative Shooting Community which provides sim-

any game, sports, simulated game shoot for guns of the standards on 18 historic country estates in England, Scotland and Wales.

The setting was Chavenor Manor near Tetbury, Gloucestershire, an estate which has remained unchanged, bar the

guns, the target imitates the flight-path of driven pheasant or partridge. To make life yet more difficult, the trappers,

concealed behind the brow of a hill or a line of trees, throw in the occasional "midi" or "mini" clay, the former 3ins across, the latter 1 1/2ins

Mr Gauntlett
 persuaded by friends that
 it might appeal to
 other than tyro game
 companies looking
 for ways to entertain
 and experienced game

...game shooting is
...A full day out, with
...coffee, lunch and tea,
...9 a gun for a party of
...t as its sponsors point
...gures look a lot better

gates look a lot better compared with the cost of a game shooting. On "alternative day", eight could be presented with 10 targets; if a similar number of pheasants were shot by beaters the

For further details: The Alter-Shooting Company, Long House, Foss Cross, Ash, Gloucestershire, Tel: 0285 720488.

هَكَذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Unseasonal weather need not stop play. Heather Kirby reports on the growing availability of indoor sports

Sport comes in out of the rain

Indoor sports of a more robust nature than darts and snooker are becoming increasingly popular, and the boom is not just thanks to our unpredictable summer weather. More time and money to spend on leisure, innovative ideas finding a market looking for new diversions, more social isolation, and corporate hospitality are among the reasons why rain no longer stops play.

Tennis, cricket, climbing and go-karting are some of the sports which have gone under cover. There is even indoor bowls. At Leamington, Warwickshire, where The English Women's Bowling Association began its national championships this week, a £1.2 million pavilion is being planned for Victoria Park, and arousing a certain amount of controversy. The building, if approved, will accommodate eight games at a time on green matting.

Although some entrepreneurs may have lost money in the past few years because they misread the armchair enthusiasm for Wimbledon as a burning desire to play tennis, the forecast for indoor courts is good. David Lloyd, the brother of John, the former England player, now has 12 indoor courts at three centres and is planning to build more.

According to Phil Sanderland, the director of facilities at the Lawn Tennis Association, there are about 450 indoor courts in the UK, an increase of 50 per cent over the past three years. "We estimate there are probably three million people playing tennis, although it is difficult to say how many of those are regular players," he says.

The fastest growing area is in the public sector, where you have local authorities from Bodmin to Islington, Sunderland to Warrington, borrowing £200,000 and getting help from urban aid programmes or sponsorship to build indoor courts. We do not suggest they can recoup that debt but they can earn enough to pay for its upkeep. One of the big successes in this area is the interest that has

been generated in coaching courses. We suspect 25 per cent of players now have been introduced to tennis through indoor courts."

An increasingly common sight are PVC balloon-like covers erected over club courts, where, after paying a yearly membership fee, you can usually play as often as you like without further charge. At a commercial indoor centre, players can pay a £250 joining fee, a similar amount in annual membership, then £10-£15 an hour for a game.

Compared to indoor tennis, a pitch fee of £32 for a 90-minute game of eight-a-side indoor cricket is a snip. A team membership for a 14-week season at one of the four centres owned by Indoor Cricket Stadiums (ICS) at Tottenham, Ipswich, Peterborough and Well-

Compared to indoor tennis, a 90-minute game of indoor cricket is a snip

ingborough costs £41. After that there is only the equipment and bar prices to worry about.

Indoor cricketers - Mike Gattling plays for the premier league indoor champions at Aston Villa - do not need to wear whites or the heavy protective gear of professional cricketers. An indoor cricket ball, says Mark Brandon of ICS, is like a tennis ball wrapped in leather and is softer. The one used by women is softer still. Pads and helmets are unnecessary. Cotton mittens are worn for holding the willow bat, which is lighter than an outdoor bat.

Indoor bats and balls do not make the same satisfying sound you hear on village greens, but Mr Brandon insists the sport has other

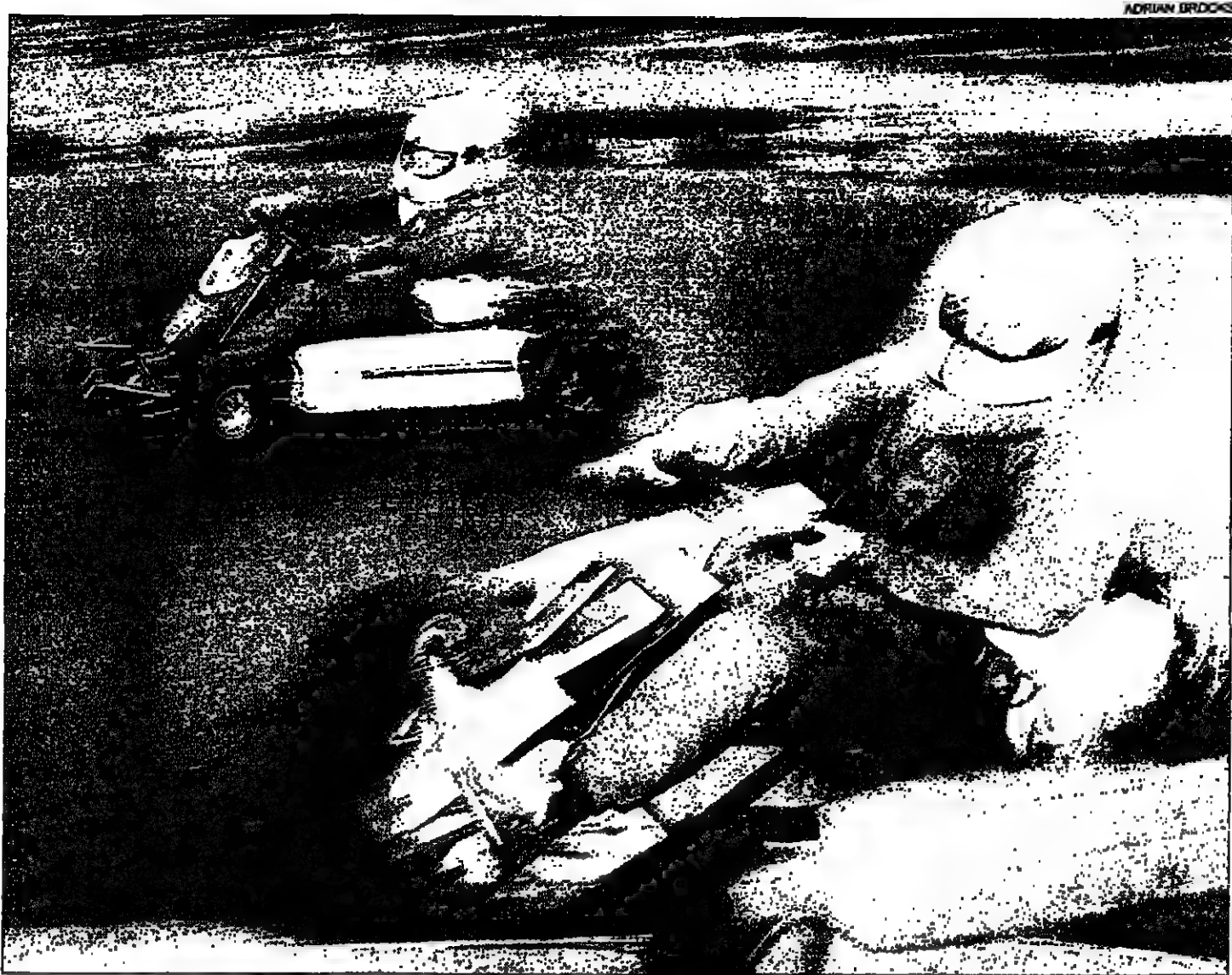
more rewarding characteristics which traditional cricket lacks. "It is in the high street; you don't have to go out into the sticks. And you don't have to keep yourself from getting bored waiting around for three hours, because everyone gets to bat and bowl."

Mr Brandon continues: "You can be extremely unfit and still play, he says, because you do not have to run to score; that is optional. How many runs are made depends on where the ball hits the side netting and whether it bounces first. For a national league side, anything over 100 runs is doing well, although our highest score is 290." Indoor cricket came to Britain from Australia and New Zealand. Mr Brandon believes it has taken off in this country because, besides the rain, there are enough people who want to play but who work at weekends. There are also an increasing number of organisations who want company teams but who do not want to waste time or money on a wash-out.

Corporate interest, as well as the occasional staff outing, has transformed the go-kart business of two former Greater London council youth workers. With £1,300 each, they first took over an old transport museum and then two bus garages in Clapham and Battersea, south London, and established what is now an indoor racing centre with a £1.6 million turnover.

One of them, Martin Howell, says: "Go-karting always had a nasty, damp image, something one usually did at the seaside, so we decided to bring go-karting indoors. It costs £30 per head for a four-hour session, and we get every kind of company, from Japanese car manufacturers to West End advertising agencies, as well as individuals who just want to know what it feels like to race round a track."

The circuit, covering 40,000 square feet, can take six petrol-engined go-karts at a time, racing



Fast track: go-karters are "the kind of people who never get a chance to go racing but get a buzz out of doing 0-60mph in three seconds"

against each other at speeds of up to 40mph. It is all just like Brands Hatch, according to Mr Howell: champagne for the winner, a chequered flag and banks of red and white tyres for the unfortunate few who come a cropper. The corners are given names such as Parabolica, after a famous racing bend in Italy, or Diana's Drift, which may or not recall the driving skills of one of the centre's 50,000 customers.

Teams, often made up of a company and client it hopes to impress, must pre-book, wear crash helmets, driving gloves and track suits.

Go-karters, Mr Howell says, are the kind of people who never get a chance to go racing but get a buzz out of doing 0-60mph in three

seconds, quicker than the average Porsche, which is what they generally drive around town.

One of the new indoor sports that has come on in leaps and bounds is wall climbing, according to Roger Payne, who is on the climbing wall committee of the British Mountaineering Council.

He says: "Walls used to be at the end of a gym and had nothing more adventurous than few boring bricks sticking out at intervals, which were not very challenging even to a complete novice. Now they are exciting and are becoming incredibly popular, especially in those parts of the country where hill walking and rock climbing are more familiar. We advise centres

to charge the same as a pint of beer. At a new wall, installed at a cost of £85,000 in Newcastle, we expected 10,000 user visits in six months but that target was reached after nine weeks.

Climbing walls, made of glass fibre, or concrete mixes, are easy to maintain: all they need is a warm environment, 13C, to keep them in good order, and someone to sweep up the chalk climbers use to get a grip, plus a programme of modification with new foot and hand holes so there are enough changes to sustain interest.

Mr Payne, who met his New Zealand-born wife climbing in South America, thinks it is the perfect sport for social losers. "Lots of people get interested in wall climbing when they go to a

leisure centre to play squash or badminton and find the wall intriguing enough to have a go. But one of the main reasons the sport is taking off is a social trend. There is a move away from team sports towards individual or small group activities. You don't get any anxiety or fear of failure which might come from the team game, and how many people these days know ten friends to make up a football team?"

● Lawn Tennis Association, Queens Club, London W14 9EG (071-385 3366). Indoor Cricket Stadiums, 117 Bruce Grove, N17 6UR (081-801 4466). PlaySpace Pro Racing, 322 Mare Street, E8 1HA (081-986 7116). British Mountaineering Council, Crawford House, Precinct Centre, Booth Street East, Manchester M13 9RZ (061-273 5835).

Bargain-hunting off the beaten track

Now that the high street summer sales are ending, bargain-hunters can still find big savings at factory shops. These all-year-round outlets, often tucked away in side streets or located on industrial estates, are where manufacturers sell off frustrated exports, less-than-perfect products and ends of ranges at low prices.

Shoes, handbags, china, bed linen, lingerie, coats, toys, babywear, textiles, furniture, glass, carpets and woollens are among the items which may be reduced by as much as half. As stock in factory shops varies from week to week, you can never be sure exactly what will be on sale. Nor is it likely that items will be repeated, so it is best to buy on the spot.

Many of the "seconds" are indistinguishable from best quality goods and it is possible to find items usually on sale at leading London stores.

Some people, such as Sue Brown, a London publishing assistant, make a habit of visiting factory shops. "Last year I bought a fully lined raincoat for £25, and later saw a similar one in Marks & Spencer for twice the price," she says. "I also picked up a child's duvet cover for £5 and kitted out the whole family with shoes."

"You have to watch out for odd sizing but in most places you can try the clothes on and look in a mirror."

Northampton is the home of Crockett and Jones, which makes shoes for leading gentlemen's outfitters. In London, you can pay more than £100 for the company's shoes, but at its factory shop ends of lines and "slight seconds" cost from £25 to £49. The shop is open on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings (0604 31515).

Anyone who owns a Royal Crown Derby service knows how expensive it is to replace a chipped plate. Slight seconds are available at the factory shop, half a mile from Derby city centre, at a third below

Factory outlets, selling everything from carpets to china, are a source of good buys all year round



usual prices. At a sale, running until the end of the month, many items are half the best quality prices. The shop is open 9am-5.30pm, Monday-Saturday (0332 47051).

At Fareham, Hampshire, Grandford carpet mills is selling carpets at half the shop prices. They are available by the roll or cut to size. The shop opens daily (0329 289612).

The Courtaulds factory shop, a mile from Oldham, Lancashire, currently has a women's wear sale, and a wide range of household textiles, towels and bedding. Prices are 20 to 50 per cent less than perfect lines. The shop is open Monday-Friday, and on Saturday until 3pm (061-633 2201).

David Nieper, of Alfreton,

Derbyshire, sells discontinued lines and slight seconds of designer lingerie at half shop prices. The shop is open 9.30am-4pm Monday-Friday, and Saturday morning (0773 833335).

At the Dartington crystal factory in Torrington, Devon, there are two shops, one selling slightly imperfect glassware at two-thirds of the perfect price, and a bargain basement where items cost a third of shop prices. The factory shop opens daily, including Sundays (0805 22321).

If you need a suitcase to carry your bargains home, the Antler factory shop in Bury, Lancashire, has seconds and discontinued lines with good savings on shop prices. The shop opens 11am-3pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 9am-11.30am on Saturdays (061-764 5241).

Gillian Cutress, a factory shop devotee, has written and published a series of ten guides covering outlets all round the country. Each guide lists the location, how to reach the shop by car and public transport, opening times, typical items on sale, whether credit cards are accepted and other useful details.

The guides are available from her at 34 Park Hill, London SW4 9PB (071-622 3722), priced as follows: Staffordshire £3.50, Yorkshire and Humberside £3.50, Northern England £2.99, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire £2.95, northwest England £3.50, Scotland £3.50, East Anglia and south-east England £3.95, South Wales and the southwest £3.95, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire £3.50 (new version in September), West Midlands £3.50 (new version in October). Please add 50p p&p for one guide and 30p for each additional guide up to £1.80 p&p for the whole series.

NICOLE SWENGLEY

CAR boot sales have developed into circulating libraries for Britain's unwanted gifts: flocks of winsome macramé owls and scores of sagging plant-holders change hands every weekend on wasteground from Hackney Wick to Looe.

But today, a car park in the centre of a busy east London industrial estate becomes the scene for the capital's first truly alternative art fair.

The Great Fine Art Car Boot Sale, organised by Atlantis Docklands Art Warehouse, is an innovative and unorthodox response to a serious decline in the "official" art market. In the face of sluggish sales on Cork Street, the prospect of an alternative way to deal in art has generated considerable enthusiasm.

"It's a combination of kitsch and culture," says Elaine Kowalsky, the events organiser for Atlantis. "Buyers will have fun bargaining—and hope to find a contemporary masterpiece."

One of the painters, Vanilla Beer, has a more urgent reason for taking her work to the sale. "I'm going because I'm broke," she says. "I need to eat, and I thought clearing out some work would help solve my storage problems."

Ms Beer, whose work has been shown in West End galleries and at the Olympia Art Fair, is not wholly pessimistic about the artist's lot. She predicts that the day will be "a

Treasures in the trunk

Organisers hope that London's first fine art car boot sale, which takes place today, will not be the last. So do some dealers, and the artists themselves cannot wait

great opportunity for collectors to buy. I think that it will be a good laugh, too. We're bringing along plenty of wine as well as our work."

Although most of the traders will be individual artists hoping to sell their own pieces, a few galleries are also planning to trade on wheels for the day. "It's been such a quiet year," says Karyn White, a partner in the Intaglio Printmakers Gallery. "We showed at Olympia earlier this year and we're curious to try a smaller, more low-key event. I think this is a good chance to show and sell work."

ONE of the most attractive aspects of the direct sales that can be made at an event such as this is the lack of a gallery commission fee, so artists can sell directly to the public at prices well below those charged by dealers.

Jonathan Blond, of Blond Fine Art, who will be at the sale, welcomes the relaxation of the usual rules. "There has always been a tendency among galleries to fight shy of anything that smacks of a sale or a

reduction. It just isn't done. I think this is a great idea."

There will be an eclectic and unpredictable range of work on sale. Blond will be selling oceanic tribal carvings and artefacts, including spears and paddles, priced from £40 to £750. Ms Beer is planning to show a variety of pieces, priced from £10 to £60. "I'm bringing small oils, etchings, watercolours and wood blocks," she says. "Basically

anything that will fit in the back of a car."

Pieces by members of the Print Makers Council will also be very affordable, with prices ranging from £30 to £100.

HARLAND Walshaw, a member of the council, says: "We generally prefer to show our prints in informal settings like theatre foyers. The car boot sale suits us very well. We hope that the prints will

appeal to people who might not normally think about buying art."

Brian Campbell, a picture-framer, will be bringing along pieces by four of the artists with whom he works regularly, including printmaker Phyllis Mahon and photographer Bruce Rae. "I'm not taking any commission," he says. "I'm doing it for a bit of fun. I like the idea better than the usual sort of art fair, where it's very expensive to take a stall. I hope this could develop into a regular part of the London art scene."

SUE MOORE

● Atlantis Great Art Car Boot Sale, Atlantis Docklands Art Warehouse, 2 St Andrews Way, London E3 (071 537 2525); 11am-5pm; £15 charge per car trading; 50p admission for buyers.

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Events in town

THIS WEEKEND

Eastbourne extravaganza: Maritime Sunday offers family fun with sandcastle competitions, dinghy races, Punch and Judy and magic shows. Long-distance swimming races, and a lifeboat air/sea rescue demonstration. The seafront and beach between the bandstand and Wishtower. Tomorrow.

London's classic cars: More than 300 rare cars, club displays and arena events, a national concours competition. American, commercial

and military vehicles, craft and trade marquees. Alexandra Palace and Park, N22 (081-365 2121). Tomorrow 9.30am-5pm. £3.50, children £1.50. Summer in the City: The festival, suitable for two to ten-year-olds, starts tomorrow with actors from the RSC, games, clowns, free shows, face painting. Thereafter activities include workshops on circus skills, puppetry and mime, collage and mask-making, drama and keyboard instruments. Barbican Centre, EC2. Tomorrow-Aug 10. Further information on 071-638

4141. Workshops and films bookable on 071-638 5899. NEXT WEEK Cambridge cheer: Camra beer festival; sample real ales, ciders and perry. The Corn Exchange, (0223 357851). Tues-Sat. Musical London: Young musicians of the Matrix Ensemble play Mozart, plus wind serenades. Cubitt Steps, Canary Wharf, Isle of Dogs, E14. Tues, 12.45pm. Free. Further information on 071-418 2418.

JUDY FROSHAUG



Gallery on wheels: Stuart Welsh and Elaine Kowalsky prepare

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Is parsimony the best way to treat prodigy?

Simon Tait asks if Britain invests sufficiently in its youth ensembles

Tonight the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain appears on television, performing at the Proms. An audience of millions will feel rightly proud that this country supports one of the world's finest youth orchestras. But how much does Britain actually "support" any of our national youth ensembles? Behind the celebratory facade of tonight's concert there is growing concern about their financial circumstances.

The share-out of this year's Arts Council's youth fund has brought a furious response from the National Youth Theatre. "We are sure that you would not expect us to be other than profoundly depressed by the announcement that we are to be given the measly sum of £5,000."

So goes a letter to Lord Palumbo, the Arts Council chairman, from Bryan Forbes, the NYO's president.

'The NYO finds it hard to attract sponsors when there is no solid evidence of national approval'

Sir Ian McKellen, vice-president, and Edward Wilson, artistic director. "It is a matter of regret and concern that the Arts Council has chosen to treat us with virtual contempt." The NYO, whose Sainsbury sponsorship worth £150,000 a year ends in March, has had to cut its next programme to three productions. Other beneficiaries feel scarcely less miffed at the lack of encouragement for the best young companies in the country, even though they are relatively successful with sponsorship. But should they be?

Until 1981 the Arts Council funded youth arts groups as it did any other companies. Then it decided to cut the "non-fully professional" bodies from its client list. Three years ago there was a softening of heart after heavy lobbying from the NYO and others, and the youth fund was introduced.

The fund contains £75,000 this year, and 11 companies benefit from it. The biggest shares, of £10,000 each, go to the National Organisation for South Asian Dance, to start a new youth dance company, the National Youth Choir for bursaries and commissions, and the Young Persons Concert Foundation.

The National Association of Youth Theatres receives £9,000 for rural training courses, the National Youth Dance Trust has £6,000 to consolidate its management, raise its profile and improve quality, and the British Federation of Young Choirs, British Youth Opera, National

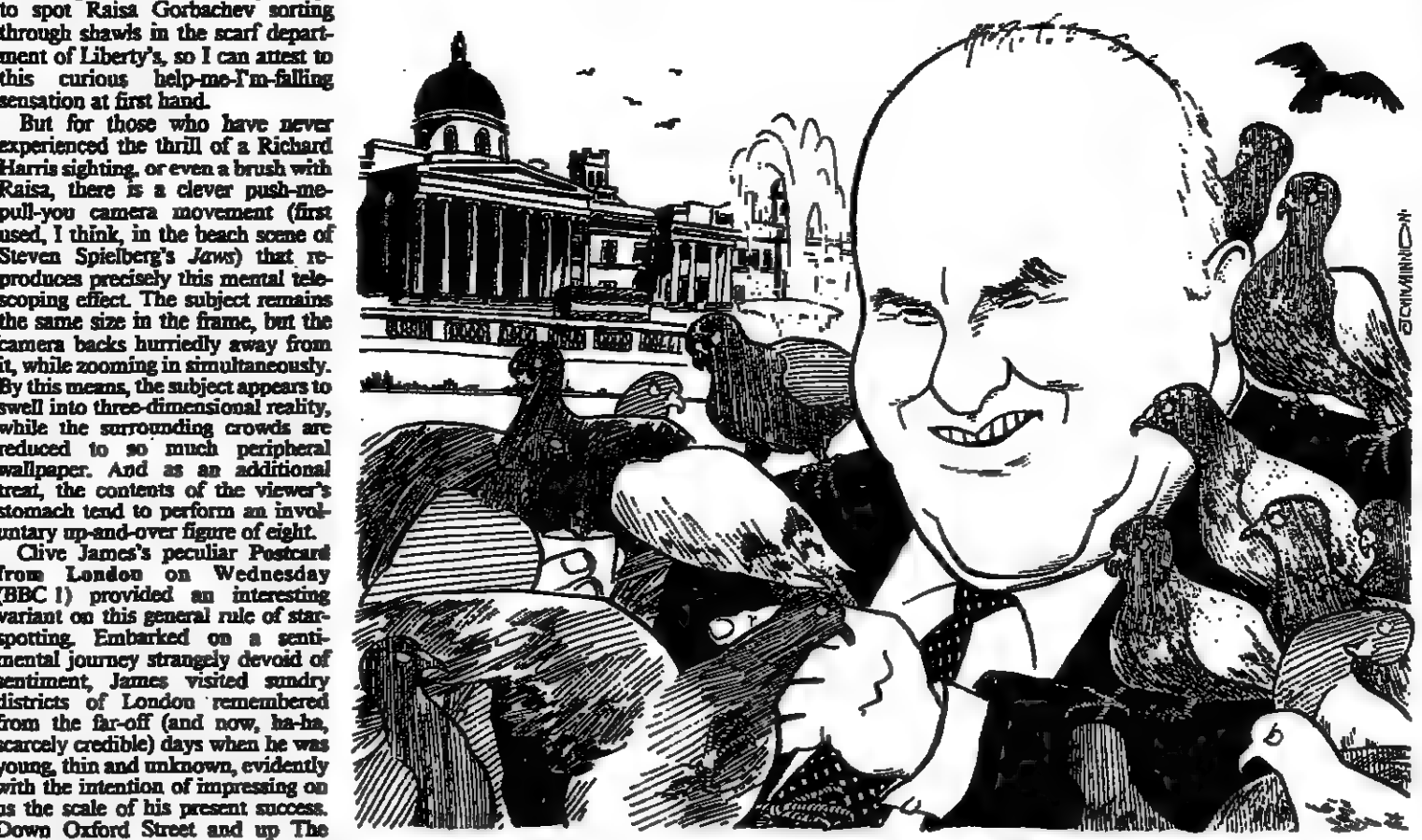
Letters, page 9



Here today, gone tomorrow? Rasaak Adoti and Lisa Brice in the NYMT's production of *Gays and Dolls*

Lynne Truss, reviewing this week's television, finds the views on Clive James' postcard disappointing

How quaint it was not to be famous



appearing to notice a famous person strolling self-consciously through the throngs of a London street, you may possibly experience a kind of vertigo. "Good Lord," you cry, staggering slightly. "That's Richard Harris, surely!" Upon which, a surge of recognition sweeps Harris-wards like a great wind, and the rest of the world simply drops out of sight. I once had the privilege to spot Raisa Gorbachev soaring through shawls in the scarf department of Liberty's, so I can attest to this curious help-me-I'm-falling sensation at first hand.

But for those who have never experienced the thrill of a Richard Harris sighting, or even a brush with Raisa, there is a clever postcard-pull-you-camera movement (first used, I think, in the beach scene of Steven Spielberg's *Jaws*) that reproduces precisely this mental telescoping effect. The subject remains the same size in the frame, but the camera backs hurriedly away from it, while zooming in simultaneously. By this means, the subject appears to swell into three-dimensional reality, while the surrounding crowds are reduced to so much peripheral wallpaper. And as an additional treat, the contents of the viewer's stomach tend to perform an involuntary up-and-over figure of eight.

Clive James' peculiar Postcard from London on Wednesday (BBC 1) provided an interesting variant on this general rule of star-spotting. Embarked on a sentimental journey strangely devoid of sentiment, James visited sundry districts of London remembered from the far-off (and now, ha-ha, scarcely credible) days when he was young, thin and unknown, evidently with the intention of impressing on us the scale of his present success. Down Oxford Street and up The Mall; through Trafalgar Square and across Earl's Court - James joined the vulgar jostle on the pavements, and reflected in familiar wisecracking voice-over that nowadays he tended to witness such scenes only through the windows of chauffeur-driven cars.

But did his famous figure leap into three dimensions, amid the faceless riff-raff? Strangely, the effect was the opposite. It seemed that the camera zoomed out, rather than in. With his stiff gait and eerily immobile expression, James traversed the crowds rather like a life-size cardboard cut-out motor-driven through a world of flesh and blood. The places looked real; as did the young, thin and utterly unknown people who passed by on either side. The

only thing resembling a postcard was James himself. This was a disappointing programme for peak-time BBC 1: anecdotal, but without anecdotes. Fans of James' book *Falling Towards England* who held their breath, expecting their favourite stories of Kangaroo Valley bed-and-breakfast, will have been rushed to hospital suffering from oxygen starvation. Sadly, the point of the exercise was not to reminisce, or to dwell on one's days of hilarious nonentity.

Instead, James seemed more concerned to demonstrate that, where London streetlife was concerned, he was nowadays a fish out of water, gaping in astonishment when separated from the more congenial habitat of Langan's or Annabel's. Despite the jokey commentary, the premise of *Clive James - Postcard from London* was not witty. Essentially it was 30 minutes of such profound insights as "Do you know, I haven't been on the Underground in ages."

Amid the hopping, heaving deafening din of the Hippodrome, then, James stood stock still, with the word "Aaargh" almost visible on his brow. In Trafalgar Square, he gamely suffered himself to be pecked by expert pigeons, no doubt to prove the wisdom of the comfy indoor life he now shares with the rich and famous. His method of reclaiming the early Sixties was not to re-experience spam fritters and spotted dick, or to sleep between grey unwashed sheets in an ice-cold room, but to interview Peter Cook and Alan Coren, Terence Donovan and Michael Caine, in a pally "Hey, do you remember Nick the Greek's..." kind of way, his thesis being that if London has appeared to change over the past 30 years, it is only because he now looks at it from a more elevated (or "serious") position.

This may explain why he made no mention of the more obvious changes to London - the homeless begging from doorways, for example - but ended the film with himself arriving by taxi at the Royal Academy for a ghastly society dinner-dance. Despite his repeated NOTHING else is quite like the stillness of the promenaders at their most attentive. For close on 30 minutes, they listened without so much as a snuffle while the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra (Tuesday) wove the seamless string texture of Richard Strauss's *Metamorphosen*, and then held back on their applause so as not to break the spell.

That was a tribute to the warmth and shading of these first-time visitors to the Proms whose concert also marked the tenth anniversary of Iona Brown's directorship. The Strauss had a sustained strength of elegiac feeling and a chamber-like response between each of the 23 string parts; and in Britten's *Frank Bridge Variations* there was likeable variety of character, especially when verging on humorous parody.

Besides the strings there were ten wind players and a timpanist, who was extravagantly brought along, it seemed, to be confined to Mozart's "Haffner" Serenade in the second part. Iona Brown's solo violin added winsome charm and busy-fingered bravura to the miniature concerto enclosed within the eight movements.

The expertise at dealing with voices that Mark Elder has achieved with English National Opera ensured a clear balance between his two solo singers in his BBC Symphony Orchestra performance of *The Song of the Earth* (Wednesday). He had views of his own, however, on how Mahler's valedictory song-symphony should sound, and was so concerned to purge it of false sentiment that its more inward-searching aspects were left instrumentally barren.

Still, he gave the wind instrument players their heads in exposed passages, sometimes at the expense of continuity of line, and the flutes, oboes, horns and cor anglais made the most of their opportunities. Linda Finnie, the Bayreuth Festival's current Fricka, sang her solos from memory, which perhaps needed refreshing as to the difference between "innig" and "voller Empfindung" in her first song, for instance. She rose well to the long, lingering farewell of the last song, once past an extremely slow beginning. Gary Lakes projected his forceful tenor through the orchestral writing with buoyant spirit.

Of the concerto soloists encountered in two programmes, Stephen Hough at this concert was polished but glib in Mozart's E-flat Piano Concerto K271. He scampered through the outer movements and allowed a halting over-emphasis to do duty for

efforts to dignify his snooty fellow guests as good old English eccentrics (and the boring charity raffle as a delightful shambles unthinkable in other world capitals of his acquaintance), his evening's entertainment looked distinctly unenviable.

Nancy Astor once observed that the penalty for success is to be bored by the people who used to snub you. The closing section of *Clive James - Postcard from London* was the living proof that she was right; and that, moreover, the process does not necessarily make good television.

Television is, of course, a supremely "them and us" medium. What was distasteful about this latest *Postcard from Clive James* was, I suspect, the way he cheerfully ditched the "us" in order to align himself with "them". The most simple, and common, method of judging television is by whether you can enlist sympathetically with the "us" being presented. How close do you feel, for example, to the people complaining about provision of public toilets in *Checkout 91* (Channel 4)? Or the highly vocal lower-block residents in *Them and Us* (BBC 1) campaigning against asbestos levels in their homes?

Enough of this kind of thing, of course, and you start to forget who you are. This week *Under the Sun* (BBC 2) engaged us in the plight of Mexican musicians; in *My Defence* (BBC 2) sold us the powerful anti-Turkish passion of Gorgun Yanikian, an Armenian who famously shot two Turks to draw attention to a forgotten massacre of his people; and Jimmy McGovern's enjoyable "Play on One", *Gas and Candles*, enlisted us on the side of the powerless pensioner. By the end of the week, then, the combined claims on one's imaginative sympathy contributed to a confusing sensation of being old, powerless and Armenian, with a tickling throat, oversized guitar, and a desperate need for a loo.

Publicity was what most of these people lacked; and publicity is being swiftly added to our list of basic human rights, without which people are disadvantaged. How strange it is to sit passively at home, and through the miracle of broadcasting graciously confer on all sorts of unknown people the attention that they crave. Perhaps this is why watching television deludes audiences into thinking they are powerful. And perhaps this is also why watching Clive James bask in his celebrity was so galling: because he self-evidently did not need the charity.

Slimy nightmare in city of the American Dream

Angel City
The Grove,
Ladbroke Grove

ROBERT Redford once said that anybody who lived in Beverly Hills too long turned into a Mercedes. Sam Shepard takes a still grimmer view of the Los Angeles area in *Angel City*. A Hollywood mogul turns into a fanged blend of lizard and sci-fi humanoid, and begins to seep what, in Andrew Pratt's lively if raw production, looks like the green slime that tolerant parents buy at toy-shops for knockabout birthday parties. As for the writer he has hired to help him create a disaster movie, he ends up with his face transformed into a bulbous grey-blue toadstool.

Shepard produced the play in 1976, some time before he himself started writing films or starring in them; and it comes across today as a clairvoyant nightmare. Los Angeles itself is a place where the air is yellow with smog, the doctors have "all been sued to death" and everybody is dreaming of making movies, being in them, or both. It is horrible, yet it is beguiling, even for Mark Marshall's Rabbit Brown, who thinks of himself as a conscientious artist. "Here I can affect millions," he guiltily admits. "Replace their books, their families, their religion, politics, art, conversation. Replace their minds."

The rest of the play involves

his mostly ruinous attempts to do just that. Not only does he impel Jack Panker, playing the madder of his two employers, to come alive. The feeble Steve James, who is the other, fails to let his knees wobble "my power lies in manipulation and if no one is manipulated I have no purpose." Meanwhile Amy Tolksy, playing the company's star-struck secretary, dresses up as a nun and prowls the stage doing what, take or leave an Irish accent, appears to be a Julie Andrews imitation.

So the play goes on, challenging the more resourceful among us to crack its increasingly *outré* metaphors. A percussionist, performed with splendid brio by Russell Layton, is one moment laying into his drums, and the next babbling happily about the joy of "losin' ourselves forever in the miracle of film".

There is also an offstage saxophonist whose function is a little clearer, because Shepard has explained it. His moody blues, wafting across claustrophobic surreal Los Angeles, apparently represent an individualism disappearing in Hollywood.

In his preface to *Angel City*, Shepard adds that he thinks of character not as a coherent set of motives but as "a fractured whole with bits and pieces flying off a central theme". That seems true of the play itself, too. Bits and pieces fly off the theme, which is the destructiveness of fantasy, and, peculiar though these undoubtedly are, they are usually worth hearing. "I hate having to eat, having to work,



Reviving protest: Amy Tolksy and Steve James

having to go to the bathroom," Tolksy typically interjects. "I hate having to live in this body which isn't a star's body and all the time knowing that stars exist, that people are living in dreams which are the same dreams I'm dreaming but never living."

A lot of people surely feel that way, and in Britain as well as America. *Angel City* is Shepard's imaginative protest on their behalf, and perhaps also on his own. Pratt's company has shown admirable enterprise in reviving it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Foreign spell of magic

Week's Highlights
Albert Hall/Radio 3

continuity of line, and the flutes, oboes, horns and cor anglais made the most of their opportunities. Linda Finnie, the Bayreuth Festival's current Fricka, sang her solos from memory, which perhaps needed refreshing as to the difference between "innig" and "voller Empfindung" in her first song, for instance. She rose well to the long, lingering farewell of the last song, once past an extremely slow beginning. Gary Lakes projected his forceful tenor through the orchestral writing with buoyant spirit.

Of the concerto soloists encountered in two programmes, Stephen Hough at this concert was polished but glib in Mozart's E-flat Piano Concerto K271. He scampered through the outer movements and allowed a halting over-emphasis to do duty for

few points about rivalry, jealousy and bugs in the barley. As for the poverty constantly mentioned, the women each spend time in their own hot baths: not the impression of shanty towns fostered by television documentaries.

Exu rewards the good and disappoints the bad. How lucky to live in a shanty town where such things happen. Seljan may have hoped to combine the fabular element of a fairytale with the rawness of modern life, but her characterisation is so thin that the play persuades as neither.

The low arches of this basement pub theatre effectively suggest cramped living quarters and Clodagh McGuinness's painted walls bring an authentic brightness. Ray Shell and Anthony Barclay direct.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Romantic steps to fantasy

ENGLISH National Ballet's permanent guest artist Yelena Pankova brought a full house for Thursday's performance of *Giselle*, as well as an enthusiastic reception for both her and her handsome, ardent Albrecht, Thomas Edur.

Pankova has had to modify her interpretation of the role to take account of the different choreography in Mary Skeaping's production. She was particularly light and bright in the flute solo from the *Pas des Pendaours*, but basically this is still her own reading of the part as previously seen with the Kirov Ballet. What becomes clear in this new context is how cleverly she produces an illusion of spontaneity through the most artificial means.

The leitmotif of her dancing in this role is a curious angling of the shoulders, with the arms held out a little to the

DANCE
Giselle
Festival Hall

side as well as forwards. It recalls, perhaps, the awkward drawing in many prints of 19th-century ballerinas - something that helps provide the romantic feeling which used to infuse the whole production. Edur, too, has a feeling for the older style of dancing, and his playing has unusual nobility and grace. It is particularly gratifying that both he and Koen Onzia, who played the same role at Wednesday's matinee, perform *grands jets* - the correct, original way - as a soaring act of movement, rather than the quick, flat jump with legs flicked outstretched, which has be-

More creaky than shanty

PEOPLE in want, seeing little chance of bettering themselves by effort, turn to wonder-working gods. In the Brazilian shanty town of Zona Seljan's play, the God is Exu, a smiling deity brought over by the slaves from Africa and seemingly always on hand to grant favours in exchange for wine and a good Havana.

The wine is drunk and the cigar smoked by the priestess who invokes him at the behest of two married couples discontented with their lot. The hot-dog seller, Caxinguele, nicely played by Christopher Tobs, hopes to win the pools; Nequinhao (Tony Tarras) is afraid a government inspector will find the false measures in his shop. One wife longs for a red dress, the other for a real man. Meanwhile, street-battles between rival drug dealers are raging, interrupted by a shoot-out between police and govern-

ment inspectors. It all seems a long way from Whitehall. As the priestess, Beaux Bryant goes into some convincingly ecstatic dances and trances and is transformed from lissom young woman into gleeful, ithyphallic man-about-town, strutting over the bodies of his sleeping supplicants who writhe around on each other in ecstasies of longing. With a *zude* Brazilian *Midsummer Night's Dream* in New York, Brazil is this week's top country for sexual frolics. Nonetheless, Seljan's play is a real old mess of a story, endlessly repeating the same

THEATRE
The God Exu
Barons Court Theatre

JOHN PERCIVAL

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER
presents in association with the
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DIRECT FROM CHINA

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SUN 18
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Sun 7.30
Mats: Sat
& Sun 3.00

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CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Comic Book: Cartoons** 7.00 **Crosswalk**, Young people discuss issues of interest? 7.30 **High 5**, Unusual sporting news, 8.00 **Trans World Sport**, International sporting news and features
- 8.00 **News** summary followed by **Chabner's Racing: The Morning Line**, Looking back over the week and forward to this weekend's meetings 9.25 **Sing & Song**, Jazz from the **Thirties and Forties** (r)
- 9.30 **A Century of Childhood**, Today's programme on the series examining the changing experience of childhood looks at the history of child labour during the early years of the century with singing and subtitles
- 10.00 **Check Out '81**, Consumer issues (r), (Teletext)
- 10.30 **Wagon Train: The Conchita Vasquez Story** (b/w), Flint (Robert Horton) is lured into a trap by Conchita Vasquez (Anne Mearns Alberghe), the beautiful daughter of the Comanchero chief
- 11.00 **Australian Rules Football**
- 11.30 **The Munsters** (b/w), Sitcom comedy featuring Amelia's most bizarre family (r)
- 1.05 **Film: Flight Command** (1940, b/w), Rally-round the flag around world war drama starring Robert Taylor as a copy cat who is disliked by his San Diego based flying squadron and proves he is a notable serviceman by saving the life of a commander. With Ruth Hussey, Walter Pidgeon and Rod Skelton Directed by Frank Borzage
- 3.15 **Channel 4 Racing** from Newmarket, Derek Thompson introduces live coverage of the EBF **Pegasus Mile** (5:15), **Stakes** (3:20), **People-Sporting Life** champions **5-y-o Handicap Stakes** (3:50); Colman's of Norwich **Stakes** (4:20); and the Exeter **Stakes** (4:50)
- 5.10 **Brookside Omnibus**, Suburban Merseyside drama (r), (Teletext)
- 6.30 **It Ain't Wasn't a Dream**, Manchester's hard-core rap band, the **Ruffless Rap Assassins**, take a look at black political rap music in the north of England
- 7.00 **The World This Week**, Shona McDonald and Nik Gowing present a mix of current news and news plus reports and analyses of the latest developments around the world. Includes **News Notes** and weather
- 8.00 **Kingdoms of the East: The Wonderful Kangaroo**, The red kangaroo is the largest of its kind. In the documentary narrated by Andrew Sachs, Des and Jean Bartlett look at the threats to the "big red" from humans and their herds of sheep and cattle (Teletext)



Out of her death: Daryl Hannah falls for Tom Hanks (5-30pm)

6.30 **Flame Spoken (1984).** Daryl Hannah stars as a beautiful mermaid who saves a young boy from drowning. Unfortunately, he turns out to be Tom Hanks' love interest, and once more falls into the sea and into her arms. But when she falls for him and takes to land, a cruel scientist has designs on her feathery body. A attractive fantasy, directed by Ron Howard.

7.30 **The Two of Us.** Amiable comedy with Nicholas Lyndhurst and Janet Dibley as young marrieds (1). (Crackle)

8.00 **The Ruth Rendell Mystery.** A new series of plays to die. Another polished adaptation from the Ruth Rendell canon, with the stoic QD Woodford (George Baker) directing a dead body for the first time in his life. The corpse turns out to be the intended best man at a wedding, who was last seen enjoying himself at his friend's estate night. With Christopher Ravenscroft, Diane Kene, Tracie Bennett and Hugh Hurnt. (Starz) (2). (Crackle)

9.00 **News with Sue Carpenter.** Sport and weather. 10.15 **LNW Weather.**

10.30 **Richard Dignace.** Cockney entertainer Richard Dignace takes his eyes over the world, with guests including Brian Lovering, who performs acrobatic ventriloquism, and singer Marc Cohn.

10.50 **Fate's Worst-Case Day (1985).** An escaped convict and the young boy he has become friends with, as they hole out in an old secret childhood hideaway. Staggish and sentimental film from Canada. Starring Richard Harris, James Coburn, Justin Harte and Lindsay Wagner. Directed by Alan Gibson.

12.00am **Bhangra Festival.** Performances from the UK's largest Bhangra festival, held at London's Town & Country Club in month, featuring Heera, Apna Benguet and Apnae Indian.

3.40 **EastEnders.** (1). (Crackle)

4.40 **The Hit Man and Her.** More classic music and gypsyland dancing with Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan.

5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Tim Neilson. Ends at 6.00



Infinitely subtle: Maurice Ronet as a suicidal writer (8.00pm)

8.00 Film: La Feu Follet (1963, b/w)
○ CHOICE: Louis Malle's poignant study of a writer moving towards an inevitable suicide was a critical triumph and won the special jury prize at the Venice festival. It had less success at the box office, no doubt because audiences were repelled by the downbeat theme. *La Feu Follet* is, however, a far from depressing film. It is one thing to say that Malle is so subtle that the audience can almost forget the content while admiring the technique. This is not to say that Malle is a flamboyant director. On the contrary his style is cool, detached, almost self-effacing. The important thing is that it perfectly matches the subject. The film has a formal logic which is almost flawless. The writer is played by Maurice Ronet, an infinitely subtle show which looks at the character, rather than character a sort of nobility. Jeanne Moreau and Alexandra Stewart lend quality support and the music is by Satie

11.00 As It Happens. In the first of a new series Peter McCarthy roils the dice in the gambling casinos of Las Vegas, revelling in the debauched delights of the home of all that is flashy and tacky

12.35am Incredibly Cautious. An extremely welcome (and swift) repeat of this zany cult show which looks at the cult, outrageous and inordinately wacky world of the Big Apple's cable television service Tonight's programme includes a lightweight interview with Bret Easton Ellis, author of the controversial novel *American Psycho*. Presented by the glorious Laurie Pike (r)

1.20 The Oprah Winfrey Show: I Caught My Daughter's Rapist. An unusually late slot for the talk show, presumably because of the late hour. Oprah Winfrey has been the new law on the air, her hands after her daughter was raped. She describes how she used herself as bait and lured the rapist into attacking her, allowing her husband to catch the culprit. Ends at 2.10

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 1.10pm *Ambrosia* 1.40
The Ultimate Showmen 2.55-5.00pm
Three Magnificent Men in their Flying
Machines 10.50 11.00 *Fun City* 11.40
12.50pm *Woody Allen* 12.50 *Melinda* 2.00
The Hit Men and Her 4.00 The Kidnapping
Puzzle Concert 5.00-5.30pm *The America*,
Charles Brown

BORDER

As London except: 1.10pm *C.U.A.* 1.40
The 5th Wave 2.40 *The Love and Tragedy*
Adams 3.25-5.00pm *No Toes* 10.55pm
Letting Go 12.45pm *Kojak* 1.40 *The Twilight*
Zone 2.00 The Hit Men and Her 4.00
Chemistrations 4.55 *America's Top*
Ten 5.05-5.30pm *Superkey*

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.10pm World Sport
Special 1.40pm *What Knew What Sellers*
Are 3.20-5.00pm *Tonny the Torsador*
10.50pm *Sam Crooks* 11.40 *Fun* 12.40pm
Friday the 13th - The Series 1.35pm *And*
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DELAWARE

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SCREENSPORT
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only until 6.00am) 7.00am
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s Headlines in English

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TVS
As London expo

Booked 1.10pm The TV Chart: Show 2.05	70s 2.10 The Life and Times of Orson
RADIO 3	
8.35-8.55 Open University (FM) only 6.55: Weather: News	
7.00 Morning Concert Szymanowski (Concert Overture in E); Roussel (Overture de Rite); John Adams (Tromba lontana)	In a performance by the RCA Italiana Opera Chorus and Orchestra under Jost Peters sung in Italian. Prologue and Act 1, 2.40 Interval 1.26, 2.46 Act 2
7.30 News	
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Haydn Symphony No 58 in C major (Moderato); Mozart (Concert aria, Or che il dover...); Tall e o'clock song, K 363; Stravinsky (Scènes de ballet)	3.30 Russian Cell Music: Jacopo Scelli, cellist, Julius Drake, piano, perform Tchaikovsky Sentimental Aria, Op 57 6; Shostakovich (Moderato); Sonata in D minor, Op 40
8.30 News	
8.35 Albion Wind Ensemble performs wind quintets from the last years of the 19th century, by Peter Mulder and Claude Debussy, and an arrangement by Gordon Davies of Debussy's Petite	4.05 BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis perform John Casiano (Tauxieux des trotés aq); Hugh Wood (Symphony)
	5.00 Record Requests
	5.45 Mozart on Record: Clot Lawson examines why, in the past 80 years, there have been more than 40 recordings

of the Se
361 (r)
R.45 William H

(Concerto in F, K 315f, for violin and piano – first movement: Amadeus Mozart)
Players under Rainald Kromann, violin, Monika Leonhardt, piano; Trust (Were You There? Spiritual);
Melvyn Wladawsky, alto; George Gjurjević (Edvis rock ballads: Roland Hayes, train, Reginald Boardman, piano);
Coleridge Taylor (The Death of King Lear, Song of Simeon, Welsh NO Chorus and Orchestra under Kenneth Wynne; Band Music of the American Civil War; Western Wind Ensemble under Frederick Fenwick); Goehr (Sinfonia, Op 42; London Chamber Orchestra; Goehr Quartet); Pageant (Guitar Kuster) In a minor: Anders Gahr, Mozart String Trio
Member Music from Birmingham. The night

plays Dvorák (Three Waltzes from Op 54); Miloslav Leventov (Sonata No 3 – first movement); Suk (About Mother, Op 28)
7.30 Proms 1991: Live from the Albert Hall, London. National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain under David Lumsden performs Walton (Violin Concerto: Yurt Bashmet), 7.55
The singer Gidon Kremer plays the solo of Leningrad and discusses the impact of Shostakovich's music. 8.15 Leningrad (Symphony No 7, Leningrad) with a live broadcast with BBC2
9.45 Snapshots for Ewar: Old Woman Reading, 1924, The film of his programme which Adrian Relfin, lecturer in design at Portsmouth polytechnic, reflects on a cultural chronology

10.00 Kulliken O.
Bech (Tric)

1.05 **Cotton Mill Blues**, book 1; 1896 (Saxophone); Louis Armstrong (Saxophone); Cotton Mill Blues; Lindberg (Twine); Debussy (Twelve Studies), Nos. 7, 1, 3, 9, 11, 5) (12.50)

Table Talk: The conductor Thomas Bergmann leads to Leona Lewis about the bohemian childhood of his childhood (1.00 News)

1.05 **Montmartre Cabaret!**: The third of the Spanish recordings by the Spanish soprano, who she sings the title role in Donizetti's *Lucia di Borgoa*, which was performed at the first BWV 525; Lucie de la Courville (1.00 News No. 4); Goldberg (Trio Parada in A minor, BWV 1013); Lucie de la Courville (recitation de musique) (1.00)

11.20 Summer Music Society of Dorset: Tullis Scholms under the baton of Philip Pappas; Tolchinsky (Liturgy of St John Chrysostom, Op 41 – extracts); Rachmaninov (The Prayer, Op 41 – extracts); Taverner (Let Not the Prince Be Silent – first performance)

8.30	Death Valley
9.00	World 8.00 News
9.30	8.05 North View

The Best in Football		Love 11.35 Close	
RADIO 4			
(a) Stereo on FM		5.00 Conversation Piece: Professor Alan Smithers of Manchester University's school of education (Y)	
5.55am Shipping Forecast 8.00	News Briefing, and 8.00	5.25 Little Brightly on the Down (S) (I) 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather	
Weather 6.10 Farming Week 6.50 Prayer for the Day 7.00 Today, Inc 7.50, 7.55, 8.50, 9.50 News 7.55, 8.50 Weather 9.50 Yesterday in Parliament 9.55 Weather		6.00 News: Sports Round-Up 6.25 With Great Pleasure (I) CHOCES: Yvonne Angelou, the black American poet and university professor, whose verse anthology – her own work included – is read tonight by Adèle Anderson, Maureen Beattie and herself, does not like the word nobility. It is too pompous for her. Yet, nobility of spirit burns, beacon-bright, through most of the poems she has chosen if the capital pronoun	
9.00 Sport for 4, with Cliff Morgan 9.50 Breakfast, with Kim Bruce 10.00 News: Beachcomber . . . by the Way: The further adventures of the characters created by the humorist J.B. Morton (a)			
10.30 Sport: How to Survive Them: The Astonishing Russian Rabbit – and Depression (4 of 6) (a) (I)			
11.00 News, Talking Politics (new)			

clasp the
extender
it is hard

11.39 From Our Own Correspondent: Reflections of a white politician about the death of Bristol, Bordeaux's British hero

12.00 Money Box: Monocentric: The Money Box reader's dispensation financial advice at the London Stock Exchange in Livingston, West Lothian

12.25pm The News Quiz: Barry Took quizzes Alan Coren, Richard Ingrams and guests on the week's events (12.35 Weather)

1.00 News

1.10 The Moral Maze: Michael Buerk chairs an investigation into the moral questions behind the week's news (1.15 The Shipping Forecast)

2.00 News: The Moral Maze (1.57-2.05) 4X11. Listeners can ring Michael Buerk with their views on the issues raised in The

It is debated in poems such as "Family Affairs" about the slavery of her ancestors still cast its long shadow. It is strange hearing her say that it was "Scott, Robert Burns, who introduced her to the possibility of human unity (c) 7.10 In the Psychiatrist's Chair (new series): Dr Anthony Clare's audience is Dame Barbara Cartland (c) 7.45 Classic Serial: The Ebb-Tide The story of four tales by Robert Louis Stevenson is a gripping sea yarn about orphaned destitute men on a hijacked schooner, who drop anchor off a deserted South Sea island (c) 8.15 Kaleidoscope: At Home with Derek Jameson, Peter Webb visits the firm-maker of Peter Webb's Dungeness home (c) 9.15 Music in Mind (c) 9.50 Ten to Ten (c) 9.50 Weather

10.00 News
10.15 The Gardener
10.45 To Be a Lady

R.E.T. Lamin interviewee live, all the time
 presentation of Innocence versus corruption in a Cotswold
 4.00 The Living World (new series)
 4.00 The World of Wildlife
 Cambridgeshire, one of the most important wetland nature reserves in western Europe
 3.00 Science Now
 Woodland presents a personal view of the world
 11.00 The Tingle Factor: With Barbara O'Connell, interview director at the Barbican Centre (r)
 11.00 The Pound Race
 Show and Panel: Jack Revell (s)
 12.00 The News
 12.00 The News
 12.25 Music 12.30 Sports
 FREQUENCY: Radio 1: 1053kHz/255m; 1068kHz/277m; FM 97.9-99.5 MHz
 FM 98.9-102 MHz; Radio 2: 1215kHz/247m; FM 94.0-92 MHz; Radio 4: 1584kHz/1515m; Radio 5: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 6: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 7: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 8: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 9: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 10: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 11: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 12: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 13: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 14: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 15: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 16: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 17: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 18: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 19: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 20: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 21: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 22: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 23: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 24: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 25: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 26: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 27: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 28: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 29: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 30: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 31: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 32: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 33: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 34: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 35: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 36: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 37: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 38: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 39: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 40: 1548kHz/1515m; Radio 41: 1548kHz/1515m; 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SATURDAY AUGUST 3 1991

WEEKEND
MONEY

BCCI change

The rules for the banks' deposit protection scheme were changed this week to stop customers of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International from setting up trusts in different names and claiming larger payouts in the name of the trustee and all other beneficial owners. The scheme will pay up to £15,000. Page 26



Gas climbdown

Robert Evans, left, chairman of British Gas, is to publish new prices for bulk gas after the director general of gas supply, threatened to force publication of reduced charges. Page 31

Airbus victory

Airbus Industrie won orders worth US\$3.35 billion from Singapore Airlines for up to 20 four-engined A340 jets in a deal that will strike a severe blow to McDonnell Douglas, the American rival. Page 23.

Your letters



Magnet loss

Airedale Holdings, the kitchen retail and joinery company, that was until last year known as Magnet Group, has unveiled a loss for the year to end-March of £159.1 million. The loss includes an interest charge of £95.3 million on the borrowings used to take the company private. Page 23

Market record

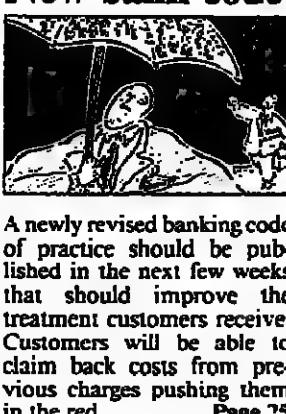
The London stock market closed above 2,600 for the first time. Page 23



Midland gloom

Brian Pearce, Midland Bank chief executive, left, said he saw little chance of a recovery in profits before next year and that bad debts would remain high. He spoke after Midland revealed business failures had reduced it to a first half loss of £71 million. Mr Pearce was presenting his first report since he was appointed in March. He saw no signs of Britain emerging from recession. Underlying profit was good, depending on the economy, he said. Page 25

New bank code



A newly revised banking code of practice should be published in the next few weeks that should improve the treatment customers receive. Customers will be able to claim back costs from previous charges pushing them in the red. Page 25

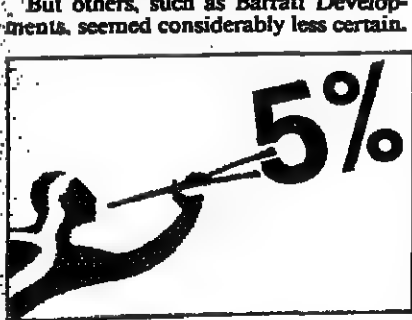
WEEK ENDING
Matthew Bond

Which way is up?

Emerging from a darkened basement into what passed for daylight in this particular West End hotel, the elderly Mountleigh shareholder prepared to try again. He had every right to be confused. Having successfully followed the short sequence of arrows that had guided him from the street to where he now stood, the final indicator had defeated him. It pointed straight at the curve of a banister separating the upward flight from the downward flight. Did he go up, or down? The horizontal arrow gave no clue. It was the sort of situation a passing Cheshire cat might have relished. Indeed, it was a purrfect week for such a feline. For when the Mountleigh shareholder did eventually find the right room, it was only to be informed by Nelson Peitz, Mountleigh's American chairman, that the company had lost £96 million in its last financial year. Mr Peitz's solution and the way forward to a brighter future, apparently, was for shareholders to stump up £96 million of new money through a rights issue. Were things getting better or worse? Up or down? As



the Cheshire cat might have said, it depends on what you want to see. Only one man seemed certain. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, spent all week telling anyone prepared to listen about the "dramatic progress" in the British economy. Ignoring news of record mortgage repossession and spiralling personal bankruptcies, Father William, sorry Mr Lamont, insisted economic recovery was already underway. The stock market appeared convinced: the FT-SE 100 index celebrated with an all time high of 2,601.7 yesterday. But others, such as Barratt Developments, seemed considerably less certain.



On Monday, the company that in the early Eighties sold more houses than anyone else in Britain, gave warning that it would be making a pre-tax loss of £100 million. The problem stems from the fact that Barratt's sites and uncompleted houses are now worth £80 million less than they cost. For John Swanson, chairman for the last three years, such losses made the direction of his next move clear. He was replaced by Sir Lawrie Barratt, the company's founder.

The Confederation of British Industry was also having difficulty in discerning which way recovery lay. Its quarterly survey of industrial trends simply showed the recession deepening. This contra-Lamontian view was confirmed on Friday by Midland Bank, which ended the run of better than expected bank results with a interim pre-tax loss of £71 million after bad debt provisions totalling £530 million. There were no such problems for BT, the senior partner in the telephone monopoly. Having made profits of £3 billion last year and with inflation sliding towards 4 per cent, BT decided that the merest glimmer of renewed prosperity provided the perfect excuse to put its prices up for its average domestic customer by almost 5 per cent. Cancel that call to Mr Lamont.

BUSINESS PROFILE: Sir Peter Walters

From big oil to bad debt

The chairman of Midland Bank is seen as a cold fish, but Gillian Bowditch discovers he can be seriously funny

On reaching the age of 60, the attention of many public companies starts to wander from profit and loss accounts towards redesigning their garden. Golden handshakes are banked, hats are hung up and retirement is settled into. Not so Sir Peter Walters, chairman and chief executive of BP until March last year. The former head of Britain's largest company is a tough man of strong personal ambition and enormous energy who relishes the type of challenge that would stretch the ability of other managers to breaking point. That is just as well, as his new role as chairman of Midland Bank, assumed at a time when Britain is facing its worst banking problem in two decades, will be no picnic.

In the seven weeks Sir Peter has held the job, he has had to face the Chancellor on allegations of banks mistreating small businesses, deal with poor staff morale caused by the sudden departure of Sir Kit McMahon, the former chairman, and calm City fears after soaring bad debt and the first cut in dividend by a clearing bank since the Thirties.

But this is nothing compared to the stress of his job at BP where he lived through the Six Day War, the Yom Kippur war, the fall of the Shah of Iran and the most disastrous privatisation, when the government's sale of 32 per cent of BP coincided with the Black Monday stock market crash.

Sir Peter says: "I enjoy crisis management. I'm not really an entrepreneur. I wouldn't want to start a war, but if there's a battle that is going wrong, I enjoy sorting it out. The more complicated the better. I don't think I could be a successful baked beans salesman. I'd get intellectually bored."

Sir Peter, who was 60 in March, was managing director of BP for the age of 40, is not sure why he was so successful so young. But former colleagues attest to his brain power and ability to stay cool in any situation. He is seen as a cold fish, an unemotional man who does not give affection easily and is awkward about receiving it. He has few close friends but a wide range of acquaintances. Those who know him well and have penetrated the protective wall he has built around himself say he can be great fun.

Sir Lindsay Alexander, former deputy chairman of Lloyds Bank and an old friend of Sir Peter's, says of him: "He is wholly unpretentious and extremely wide ranging in his thoughts. He is broadly educated and that is coupled with a first rate brain. When you see that glint in his

eyes behind his glasses, you know he is going to be quite seriously funny."

Sir Peter's position at Midland will suit him because he is interested in power and good at amassing it. The job has the necessary high profile and complex problems. He says: "Some of the problems in the banking industry, apart from Midland's particular problems, are such that you can't just turn up an hour before the board meeting. You have to be involved and you have to be financially knowledgeable."

His eight years on the board of National Westminster Bank have helped. His decision to cut the NatWest board from 31 directors to a more manageable size was one reason he was not appointed chairman there.

Sir Peter says of his work at Midland: "I spend my time analysing, strategising and meeting people. I've been defending the bank from a number of half-cocked charges about screwing the small businessman. I had my first meeting with the Chancellor two days before I started my job here. We've been exonerated from the main charge." He denies that the reason the fuss over small businesses has died down is because the government

'I enjoy crisis management. I don't think I could be a successful baked beans salesman. I'd get bored intellectually'

has a greater worry, caused by the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. Sir Peter believes the Bingham enquiry into BCCI is essential.

He is known for his ability to take tough decisions, even when opposed by other senior managers. He carries them through cleanly, quickly and with a degree of humanity. There will be no shirking Sir Peter's decision to close 120 Midland branches with the loss of 4,000 employees, although Sir Peter's daughter, Caroline, aged 21, says that what he dreads most is making employees redundant.

His career at BP ran remarkably smoothly, given the opportunities for upset. He is a good politician with an ability to manipulate people, although in the combined role of chairman and chief executive, he held most of the cards. Sir Peter says

"internationalism, diplomacy, politics and money" attracted him to BP. He held 12 different jobs within BP and became managing director after 18 years. "I was good at the jobs I did. I had the experience which was fairly exhaustive. I loved being chairman and chief executive. I'm a responsible person. My strategy and some of the decisions I made in my eight and a half years as chairman were tough and not always the ones which others would have taken. But it gave me an enormous thrill to see things coming through OK, which they did."

But, if his career has gone smoothly, his personal life has not been so easy. He and his wife, Patricia, were divorced two years ago, after 30 years of marriage. He puts the divorce down to the stress of his job, but friends say the marriage had been unhappy for a long time and that Sir Peter is more relaxed now than he has been for a decade.

The divorce was acrimonious and although Sir Peter never shows his temper in his business life, there were rows at home. The marriage split affected his working relationships. BP makes an effort to involve corporate wives and the loss of Sir Peter's wife, who was considered Mrs BP, caused upsets and awkwardness.

He has a new girlfriend, Meryl, whom he has known for more than a year. He does not rule out the possibility of remarriage. "I've no objections to marrying again. I think it is a natural state," he says. He has three adopted children: Alisair, 23, James, 26, and Caroline.

Sir Peter's childhood was difficult. His father, a policeman, died of cancer when Sir Peter was 14 years old. He was born and brought up in Birmingham, an only child, and despite living in extreme poverty, his mother encouraged him to continue his education. After attending King Edward's School, he went to Birmingham university where he studied economics.

National Service followed and Sir Peter graduated best cadet in his class. "It gave me my first taste of nepotism," he says. "I went to see the list of postings available to the class. There was only one overseas posting, to Singapore, and I thought 'OK I've passed out top of the list I'll have that'. Then I was called in next day and told the posting was going to the general's son. I went to Chester."

Caroline says the death of his father has affected Sir Peter greatly. "I think he was very hurt when his father died and it has led to him holding back emotionally. He also had to grow up very quickly and hates it if any of us are ever childish or immature. I think his ambition comes from having to stand on his own two



Supportive father: Sir Peter and daughter, Caroline, who says he is more like a mate than a parent

feet at a young age and perhaps it makes people think of him as slightly ruthless.

"He's a very supportive father and great fun. We are more mates than father and child. He tends to rope the whole family into any new hobby. He got a sailing boat once and that was going to be the family's hobby, but it was a bit of a disaster. He doesn't lie in and he hates other people lying in bed in the morning. He can cook brilliant scrambled egg but, apart from that, doesn't know where the kitchen is."

Sir Peter is moving to a new house in Kensington and has given up his country home, preferring to spend his time in London where he can indulge his love of classical concerts, theatre, art galleries and parks. He is a keen gardener and loves golf, which he plays at his Portuguese villa.

Caroline says: "The great love of his life is the dog, a miniature dachshund called Gerty. He doesn't like big dogs. I think he is frightened of them, but give him the dog and he is happy. He says Gerty is the only one who doesn't answer back."

Designer jails plug in to the hard cell

From PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

CARL Coppola thinks he has cracked America's overcrowded prison problem. For seven years the 49-year-old engineer has worked to break out of the jail construction requirement of eight-inch concrete walls.

With the aid of a computer, he is now producing designer cells, cubes made from two-inch thick steel that are rolling off the production line at 50 a week. Mr Coppola can turn out any kind of cell you like, and with various trimmings — electric doors, single or multiple bunks, aluminium toilet, maximum security and even rubber padded.

The cube, about 8ft 6in square and covered in graffiti-proof plastic, is tough enough to stand alone and support three cells above

itself. Its two and a half tons arrive vacuum-wrapped in clear plastic. All the prison authorities need to add is light and water — both need only to be plugged into the cell with very little mess.

The cells bolt together like a children's building set and cost on average \$12,000. There is a bare minimum version, around \$8,500, for either the very poor states or for very harsh punishment. Michael Rosenberg, of the makers Mark Correctional Systems, said: "We've turned prison construction into child's play. We can stack them four high and assemble 1,200 cells in 30 days."

Despite initial consumer resistance to the product, nobody has yet escaped. Mr Rosenberg said: "While no jail is escape proof, it would take some doing to get out of these. We went at it with a sledgehammer and couldn't burst



through. You'd need a blow torch to get out."

Mr Coppola's brainchild sprang from Mark Lighting Fixtures, another company he operates, which has illuminated American prisons for 30 years.

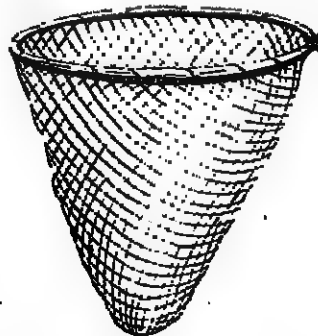
On his rounds, he listened to the problems of the guards and authorities who complained of

overcrowding and the cost of building new prisons. With Mr Coppola's method, an additional 1,200 cells costs \$14.4 million, far cheaper than concrete.

The cells, he says, fit anywhere — bolted onto existing prisons or standing alone in a courtyard. "The whole line is computer-controlled so we can deliver any type of cell the authorities want," Mr Rosenberg said. "If they wanted a square window and then rang up just before we were due to start production wanting a round one, we can change it at the touch of a button."

Mr Coppola reports brisk enquiries about the product from South America, Israel, Australia, Germany and Britain. His present factory has a capacity of 3,500 cells a year. But two others are planned, which will bring annual production to 10,000.

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Interim dividend is heavily cut

Midland plunges to £71m loss after provisions

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MIDLAND Bank plunged to a loss of £71 million in the first half of the year and has cut its interim dividend by more than three-quarters after being forced to provide £530 million against bad debts.

Sir Peter Walters, the bank's chairman, blamed the recession for the "unacceptable" results. He said: "We remain in the grips of a recession of unforeseen length and depth. The bad debt charge reflects the continuing rise in insolvency and default with all sectors now suffering from the effects of the UK economic situation."

Brian Pearse, the chief executive, said the bank did not expect any improvement in the economy in the second half of the year. He added: "We accept that we are bumping along the bottom, but we are not optimistic about when the recovery will start. We certainly do not see ourselves as coming out of the recession yet."

As a sign of its caution over the economy, Midland is adding a £59 million general bad debt provision, to cover future losses on lending.

The results were at the bottom end of forecasts in the City, but the shares rose sharply by 19p to 225p, on signs that Midland's underlying business was improving and that the bank's reorganisation was taking effect.

Richard Coleman, an analyst at James Capel, said: "The figures are surprisingly good at the operating level." The bad debt provisions, which were 77 per cent higher than in the

first half of last year, masked a strong improvement in Midland's trading performance, due to tight cost control.

Trading profits rose 32 per cent to a record £480 million, as costs remained almost unchanged at £1.2 billion. In the past year, a radical reorganisation has cut group staff by 3,200, or 5 per cent of the workforce. This restructuring cost the group £55 million in the half year and includes the closure of 120 branches and 30 area offices this year.

The losses forced Midland to reduce its dividend to 1.7p, the same amount as the final dividend last year, and down from 7.3p last time.

Sir Peter said the dividend had been fixed after much debate by the board. "Given the poor economic environment and its effect on profitability, together with the fact that we cannot say when conditions will improve, the board has decided to conserve reserves and capital," he said.

Mr Pearse said that Midland was planning an overhaul of its personal and corporate banking products as part of its reorganisation. The bank wants to move most of its small business accounts out of area and regional offices into 250 main branches where they could be handled by senior managers. Mr Pearse said that, in the past, Midland's corporate service had been "over-engineered".

Midland's personal accounts are also being reviewed. Vector and Orchard, two of the bank's innovative accounts, are to be altered or abandoned. Instead, the bank will offer more traditional

current and savings accounts and mortgages. Meridian, however, the high net worth account, will be retained.

Midland's figures also suffered from losses at Thomas Cook, its travel agent subsidiary, because of the Gulf war. Cook fell from a profit of £13 million in the first half of last year to a loss of £4 million. Mr Pearse said the bank had no plans to sell the company, even though it was not a core business.

The best performer in the group was Midland Montagu, where profits rose from £17 million to £73 million due to a strong contribution from its treasury and capital market businesses.

Sir Peter said he had been surprised at the quality of Midland's business when he joined the bank in March. "In many areas, the bank was in better shape than I might have thought. Quite a lot was already in train, and it is only now, in these figures, you can see this showing through. We are entirely in the hands of the economy. If bad debts tail off, we will be back in a happy position sooner rather than later. But this half year will be very tough."

Following the example set by Lloyds and Barclays, Midland has made an £8 million provision for the £100 million levy that is expected to be raised later this year by the Bank of England's Deposit Protection Scheme to pay for compensation to depositors in the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

Profile, page 21
Tempos, page 22



In the grip of recession: Richard Delbridge, finance director, left, Sir Peter Walters and Brian Pearse announcing the results yesterday

Ofgas court threat produces rapid result

British Gas bows to pressure

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Gas announced plans to publish new prices for bulk gas hours after James McKinnon, the director general of Gas Supply, threatened to issue a final enforcement order that would have forced the company to publish reduced tariffs for bulk gas customers.

The breakthrough, after a five-month battle between British Gas and its regulator, has the hallmark of a key victory for Mr McKinnon. However, Ofgas said it would wait to see details of the proposals at a meeting on Monday before passing comment.

Failure to comply with an Ofgas enforcement order would have left British Gas in breach of its licence. Earlier, Mr McKinnon gave a warning that if Britain's sixth biggest company was to challenge the order in court and win, he would seek additional powers from Parliament.

Since March, Mr McKinnon has been trying to force British Gas to revise a 35 per cent price rise that has stymied development of gas-fired power stations.

Construction of high-efficiency gas power stations with low emissions is crucial to the government's hopes of creating a more competitive market in power generation.

Mr McKinnon said: "If British Gas chose to fight this one there would then be clear evidence that the powers that Ofgas has are inadequate."

He accused British Gas management of vacillating rather than reaching agreement. Little more than four hours after Mr McKinnon's threat, Cedric Brown, British Gas's senior managing director, said the company was prepared to publish a new schedule of prices for the power generation market from 1995.

"The schedule will reflect market prices but will also incorporate safeguards to

avoid damage to existing customers if demand threatened to outstrip supplies," he said. British Gas said discussions over new schedules had been prolonged because Ofgas had "totally unrealistic" views on future gas availability.

British Gas says supplies of gas will be tight until 1995.



McKinnon: victory

Because of the time needed to plan and build new power stations, however, a new schedule which takes effect from 1995 may prove adequate to enable power companies to resume gas purchase negotiations.

The confrontation began after British Gas became alarmed at the level of interest in bulk interruptible gas contracts from would-be power station developers. It abruptly increased its tariffs for these contracts from 16p a therm to 22p a therm, a prohibitive level, claiming it had insufficient supplies available to meet the demand until after 1995.

Mr McKinnon said he believed enough gas would be available to meet power generation demand at a much lower price without any threat to domestic gas supplies. He is understood to believe that a new bulk interruptible tariff of 18p to 19p would be appropriate.

Airedale losses continue at £159m

By JONATHAN PRYNN

AIREDALE Holdings, the kitchen retail and joinery company, that was until last year better known as the Magnet Group, lost £159.1 million in the year to end-March. The loss includes an interest charge of £95.3 million on the borrowings used to take the company private in a £630 million management buyout in 1989.

The interest charge is being deferred under the terms of an agreement with the company's bankers made in June last year. Since the agreement, £146.5 million of interest and capital repayments have been rolled up, taking the total debt owed to £723 million and giving a negative net worth for the group of £453 million. A review of the financing agreement is due in December.

Also included in the loss is a £59 million extraordinary restructuring charge relating to stock writedowns and closure costs.

There are no directly comparable figures because of a change in the year end but for the nine months to end-March 1990, the company recorded a £70.3 million loss after interest of £51.2 million.

The company has made huge losses since the time of the buyout but the banks have continued their support, partly because the lenders have security only over the group holding company and not directly over the assets of the operating subsidiaries.

Yesterday's figures suggest that at the operating level the company may have turned the corner, despite the massive bottom-line deficit. The operating loss for the six months to end-March was £8.5 million, against £15 million for the half year to end-September 1990. The year to end-March saw an operating loss of £23.5 million on turnover of £225.3 million.

The operating companies have been reorganised into two divisions, trade and consumer, which Airedale said had "achieved a significant and permanent lowering of the group's entire cost structure". It said that it was cautiously optimistic and was well placed to benefit from the eventual recovery in consumer expenditure.

Electricity chief swaps jobs

From BOB RODWELL

THE chief executive of Northern Ireland Electricity, which is being prepared for breakup and sale to the private sector next year, will become managing director of Northern Electric, one of the recently privatised regional electricity companies in England, in November.

Tony Hadfield, aged 54, joined NIE in 1985. His contract as chief executive was renewed in May for three years and he was reappointed deputy chairman last week.

The announcement yesterday by Sir Desmond Lorimer, NIE chairman, that Mr Hadfield had resigned with effect from October 31 caused surprise in Ulster but follows a period of strained relations between Mr Hadfield and some members of the NIE board.

Last week, NIE announced record profits of more than £86 million, an increase of 36 per cent on the previous year.

Weinstock's pay raised by 28.5%

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

LORD Weinstock, the managing director of the General Electric Company, was awarded a pay rise of 28.5 per cent, to £469,000, during GEC's last financial year, which ended in March, despite a fall in profits and the freezing of the dividend.

His rise, at three and a half times the level of inflation in March, was published in GEC's annual report under "emoluments of the highest paid director" and is likely to add to the controversy over directors' pay rises, which have been little affected by the recession.

The announcement of Lord Weinstock's pay comes after the company made 11,000 redundant last year. Last month, Lord Weinstock said: "The process of reducing costs has not gone far enough. I am afraid there will be further job losses."

Pre-tax profits during the last financial year were down

from £872.1 million to £817.6 million, while retained profits fell from £433.4 million to £251.7 million. The dividend was frozen at 9.25p per share.

After his 28.5 per cent pay rise and the fall in profits, Lord Weinstock announced last month that he and Lord Prior, the chairman, would not be taking pay increases this year, but added: "In general, levels of pay are too low. Some get too much, we get too little". Management emoluments, including pension contributions, were up 12.8 per cent to £331 million.

In the annual report, Lord Prior wrote that GEC would "look to a resumption of increased payments in future years as earnings advance".

He said the worldwide economic slowdown was "not helpful at a time when we were carrying the additional burden of absorbing the recent acquisitions of the Plessey and Ferranti businesses".

FT-SE index closes above 2,600 level for first time

By PHILIP PANGALOS AND ANATOLE KALETSKY

SHARES in London closed at a new high, with the FT-SE 100 index finishing above 2,600. Earlier in the day they came within 3.3 points of the all-time peak of 2,612.4.

Equities had been driven forward by a lack of sellers and a healthy premium in the September FT-SE futures over the spot index.

Shares in London came off their best levels after an erratic start on Wall Street. The Dow initially advanced by 17 points on talk of a cut in

American prime rates but changed direction when this failed to materialise, and was showing an early deficit of five points.

The FT-SE 100 ended 10.0 higher at 2,601.7, having been up 17.4 points at one time. The narrower FT index of 30 shares reached 7.9 to 2,014.6. Volume reached 479 million shares.

The official leading indicators, which are supposed to foreshadow turning points in the economy, fell again in June.

The shorter leading indicator, which signals turning points in the economy about six months in advance, fell to 89.7 per cent in June after increasing marginally to 90.1 in the previous month. The June decline suggested that the low point of the recession might not be reached before December.

The longer leading index, which moves about a year ahead of the economy, also declined slightly in June, but was unchanged in July. The

longer index for July stood at 98.2, compared with 98.2 in June and 98.4 in May.

The longer index, however, has moved in a clear upward trend since September last year, when it touched a low point of 94.7. Despite the recent setback, therefore, the longer index suggested that an economic recovery might begin in the coming autumn.

The government also announced yesterday that 13,200 dwellings were started in Britain in June, compared with 13,700 a year earlier. Completions totalled 14,600, compared with 15,800 in June last year.

In the three months from April to June, seasonally adjusted housing starts were up by 2 per cent compared with the previous three months and total completions were little changed.

Britain's official reserves rose by an underlying \$35 million in July to \$44.63 billion.

Stock market, page 24

Dollar hit by fall in US jobs

THE dollar fell sharply against the mark yesterday, responding to much weaker than expected American employment figures and growing indications that German interest rates were set to rise.

American employment fell by 51,000 in July, confounding market expectations of an increase of up to 100,000 and raising new doubts about the strength of the economic recovery there. The dollar tumbled by more than three pence to DM1.74 and drifted as low as DM1.735 by lunchtime in New York.

Market pressure towards higher German interest rates increased sharply during the past few days, as German banks made more use of the current 9 per cent lombard emergency funding rate.

In expectation of a general rise in interest rates later this month, yesterday, the Bundesbank injected a limited amount of funds into the money markets at 8.95 per cent. Lombard borrowing by banks has soared this week to an average above DM5 billion per day.

Airbus wins \$3bn Singapore order

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

AIRBUS Industrie has won orders worth US\$3.35 billion from Singapore Airlines for up to 20 four-engine A340 jets in a deal which will be a severe blow to McDonnell Douglas, Airbus's American rival.

Singapore had previously planned to buy 15 MD-11 tri-jets from the American manufacturer but changed its mind because, it claimed, the aircraft had "not to date been able to meet SIA's long haul demands".

The orders, seven firm, seven subject to confirmation and six options, throw into question the long term prospects of the MD-11 which, with the Airbus A340, had hoped to challenge Boeing's dominance on long haul routes.

Deliveries of the Airbus, built by a European consortium in which British Aerospace has a 25 per cent stake, will begin in 1995 and will make SIA the first operator of the jet in Southeast Asia.

The first flight of the A340, the largest jet built in Europe for more than 30 years, will take off from Toulouse in October. Already, well over 100 A340s have been ordered. Airbus now has 459 commitments from 30 airlines for the A340 and the A330, its twin-engine sister, and is now confident of taking the lion's



Boeing beater: Airbus has designed its A340 to challenge American long-haul rivals

share of the rapidly-expanding market for aircraft capable of flying ultra long distances.

The A340-300 version ordered by SIA will have 270 seats - 18 in first class, 48 in business and 204 in economy. It will be used on European routes, such as Singapore to Paris, which the airline does not regard as sufficiently large

to justify the use of a Boeing 747-400 Megatop. It will be powered by CFM International CFM56-SC4 engines capable of taking it more than 7,500 miles non-stop.

The A340 uses many lightweight composite materials in its airframe, to reduce drag and provide a high level of efficiency. It also has the latest

technology cockpit with computers automatically adjusting the controls by a system known as "fly-through-computer".

SIA now has a fleet of 45 aircraft with 14 Airbus A310s and 31 Boeing 747s. Their average age is four years and six months, the youngest of any airline in the world.

Credit cards take higher profile

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THREE million people can now save points towards a flight in a Tiger Moth, a day's formula one powerboat racing or a session at the controls of a Boeing 757. A new Barclaycard profile points season began on Thursday.

This weekend, 2,500 people fly out of Britain, thanks to high spending on their National Westminster credit cards and in selected stores.

In the Barclays scheme, one point is awarded for every £10 spent. The smallest gift costs 190 points or £1,900 spent with the card. For this, cardholders can choose a model of a baby seal, a gold plated necklace and bracelet or a pack of three blank video tapes. These could be used in last year's star gift, a video recorder costing 6,000 points or £60,000 spent on the card. Last year, 73 cardholders received these.

Most big spenders, though, want excitement, so the daredevil activities have been increased. A few high spending men and women have already had a flying lesson, had a trip in a not air

balloon, power glided, rally driven and go-karted, courtesy of the points scheme.

Since January 1989, more than one million NatWest cardholders have registered for the air miles scheme, which awards one mile for every £10 spent. The scheme is also available from some retailers, and, to date, 150,000 cardholders have used the air miles for flights. The most popular destination is Paris, with 70,000 cashing in 450 points (£4,500) to make the journey. The scheme also allows miles to be used towards package holidays. Someone having spent £15,000 to get 1,500 points can receive £100 off a holiday.

Serious spenders are more likely to wait for one of the frequent special mileage reductions. In the spring, the price of all North American and Caribbean destinations was reduced to 2,500 miles (£25,000 spent) from about 10,000 (£100,000). Ten thousand people took up the offer.

The scheme is currently offering return fares to Australia for 8,000 points (£80,000) instead of the usual price of 20,000 (£200,000). Some cardholders

have made the journey at the higher rate.

Of the 500,000 claiming Barclaycard gifts during the past year, 22,000 paid 650 points (£6,500) for an Olympus Trip camera, which costs £49.99. The second most popular gift was an alarm clock, which then cost 175 points (£1,750).

The bank issues 150,000 points each day to cardholders spending £15 million. About 30 per cent of Barclaycard's customers have registered for the scheme. The imposition of an £8 annual charge on Barclaycard last year caused a dilemma for some points savers, who had to decide whether to continue saving for the chosen gift or set their targets lower and cut up the card. Many were angry that they only had a few weeks after cancelling their card to select their gifts.

At the moment, there are more than 1 million Barclaycard customers with enough points to buy something, but who are saving for a bigger prize. The new catalogue mixes points with cash to speed up the purchases. A flight in a Tiger Moth costs 1,250 points (£12,500 spent) plus £35.

Dow rises on futures buying

Index rises to record close

The clearing banks played their part in the market's advance after Midland made positive noises despite its higher than expected interest losses and cheered markets with a dividend, albeit much reduced. The shares jumped 21p to 228p as the market w

and Lloyds firmed 7p to 37p. Barclay's, which has also enjoyed recent strong gains, slipped back 4p to 461p as the market digested Thursday's results and County NatWest changed its recommendation from "a trading hold to a trading sell". Leading com-

another jump, this time adding 148p to 1848p.

The water shares recovered some of the recent losses. Among those showing gains North West added 5p to 358p, South West 4p to 334p and Wessex 7p to 373p.

PHILIP PANGALO

mostly lower on profit-taking but newly-listed SAL Industrial Leasing stood out, trading briskly in an otherwise dull market, brokers said. The Straits Times industrial index ended at 1,477.62, down 5 points.

(Reuters)

Chrysler	13%	75%	Maruti Suzuki
Chrysler	72%	72%	Maruti Suzuki
Cignus	45%	45%	Martin Marietta
Citigroup	14%	14%	Masco
Citrova Ltd.	43	43%	May Capital
Citrova	38%	38%	Maytag
Cummins	37%	37%	McBride Doug
CNA Financial	75%	75%	McDonald's
Cosco	32%	32%	McDonald's-Hill
Coca-Cola	81%	81	MCI Corp
Coca-Cola-Pal	35%	35%	Medco
Columbia Gas	15%	15	Medtronic
Compaq	35%	35%	Medtron Bi
Compaq	44%	44%	Merrill Lynch
Conoco	25%	25%	Merrill Lynch

73%	76%	Texaco Inc.	33%	33%
58%	58%	Texaco UK	28%	86
21%	21%	Texacorp	34	33%
65%	65%	Time Mirror	86%	86%
15%	15%	Times Mir	30	30%
54%	58%	Timken	87%	27%
81%	32%	Torchmark	61	50%
56%	55%	Toys R Us	31	31%
28%	28%	Transam	32%	32%
36%	34%	Transfers	28%	20
127%	125%	Trizec	44	44%
31%	32%	TRW	44%	44%
48%	46%	Uyo Lab	42	41%
127%	128%	USAL	143%	146

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The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

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WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 3 1991

Edited by Lindsay Cook

SIB falls short of best advice

It looks like investor protection is going back to square one. We have been expecting too much from advisers and should stop worrying about how much commission the poor darlings earn.

This appears to be the way that the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) is thinking. An inspection of the tied agent of an insurance company disclosed that 35 to 50 per cent of products sold were unsuitable for the investors. The information supplied by the customers should have led to other products being suggested. These, however, often paid lower commission to sales staff.

They may have been sold long-term insurance policies when they have said that they might need the money in the near future, or bonds when they would pay more tax than with unit trusts investing in the same areas. Instead of suggesting that the insurance company should compensate every investor sold the wrong product and that better training should be implemented

to make sure it does not happen again, SIB is now wondering whether it has been asking too much.

Until insurance companies stand to lose money for the misdeeds of their agents, they will continue to be more concerned about market share than the most suitable product for the client.

Mutterings are coming from SIB headquarters that good advice is good enough for investors and that best advice was never really attainable. The next stage, presumably, is that average advice will suffice.

SIB is also about to reject as unworkable the trade secretary's request that it should look at ways of making the disclosure of commission more visible for investors.

It would be unfair to provide details of the commission earned



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

at the point of sale for the clients of independent advisers if this were not given to the customers of tied agents, the SIB says. If rules were introduced to cover tied agents, they would get round them. So there is no point in even trying to shed light on how much the big banks and building societies earn every time they recommend that a customer takes an endowment mortgage with the insurance company they have tied to.

When it comes to investments, the fact that a financial adviser stands to earn £2,000 if investors

buy the recommended product but only £300 if they take another is only a red herring, the board claims. Somewhere in the mass of material provided, however, investors should be told how the company's expenses will reduce the yield of the investment.

In another about turn, the board is about to sanction investment companies providing goodies for brokers selling their products. SIB feels it has been too harsh in only allowing cash benefits. It is now considering adding technical help to the allowable means of payment.

This may mean a new computer or at a stretch, if SIB is not careful, factfinding trips to Honolulu complete with a 20-minute slide show on the latest fund. The promise of grateful brokers that they will put large numbers of clients into the fund will be purely incidental.

Hidden loss

Londoners and others living in inner cities need more than a good pair of glasses to read the small print on the proposal form for Commercial Union's Keyplan home contents policy. They would have to be mindreaders.

For there is no mention made on the proposal form of one important fact. Anyone in a high risk area who answers yes to the question: "Do the doors and

windows have the protection described in the accompanying booklet, *Protections for your home?*" will have their policy endorsed. Such an endorsement means the policy will not pay out for theft claims unless the policyholder has fitted specified locks to all accessible doors and windows and uses them when the house is unoccupied. The endorsement will only be spelt out when the customer receives the policy.

Householders in high risk areas would be sensible to use door and window locks. But Commercial Union can safely assume that most people will only read their policy when they need it, after a burglary.

They are not given vital information when they fill in the proposal form and need to make an informed decision.

Insurance companies are about to hit householders with higher premiums. It is adding insult to injury if these costly policies do not pay out because insurers apply hidden endorsements.

Revised code of practice drawn up

Bankers forced to strengthen customer rights

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

A NEW version of the banking code of practice should be published in the next few weeks. It will come at a time when banks have never been more unpopular.

The Consumers' Association reports a large increase in complaints about charges on personal accounts in the past nine months. Complaints about banks and the miscellany of charges they levy outnumber all other letters to Weekend Money.

The code has been extensively rewritten since the first draft was published at the end of last year. During the consultation period it was completely rejected by consumer groups and the hundreds of customers who made submissions.

The banks claimed they were misunderstood. Their lawyers were also blamed for the watering down of the code so that it appeared to protect the banks' rights and not those of their customers.

In the end, the draft fell far short of the recommendations of the Jack Committee on banking services and the subsequent white paper.

After the strong opposition to the code, the banks recognised they had to change the emphasis and strengthen customers' rights on key areas such as charges, confidentiality, and cash dispensers if they were to escape legislation being imposed to protect customers.

Now, the British Bankers' Association is confident that the new version will be acceptable to bank customers and that it will be in place by the end of the year, although it still refuses to endorse the pre-notification of bank charges outlined in the white paper. No one has yet agreed to monitor the code or codes to make sure they are adhered to.

The document is also taking a different form, in that it is now being described as a "base code". Individual banks are expected to launch their own versions and will be free to add to the rights of customers. This follows the request of banks to produce individual codes for small business customers rather than act as a cartel.

Pauline Hedges, spokeswoman for the association, said: "The code will provide a minimum standard below which no bank will fall. Competition in the market place will encourage banks to improve on it."

The main concern of consumers was the way banks

levy charges without warning, which can throw a finely tuned account into the red. The banks have maintained that it would cost £60 million a year in lost interest, by forcing them to alter their computer programs and sending letters to warn customers that a charge is about to be levied. They also claim most customers are satisfied with the way the system works.

The code is expected to make it possible for a customer who is hit for charges in two quarters, after the first set of charges pushes them back into the red, to claim back the second lot of charges. An exception will be made if the bank can show the customer should have realised this was going to happen.

The revised code states: "Banks will disregard the charges to be applied to customers' accounts in any charging period if those charges were incurred solely as a result of the application of charges for the previous charging period. The foregoing shall not apply when customers have effectively been pre-notified in advance of the charges and given a reasonable opportunity to fund their accounts."

In addition, tariffs will be sent to customers when they open accounts, when there are changes, or when requested. They will also be available in branches.

There were also a large number of complaints about confidentiality. People objected to their names and addresses being handed to insurance or unit trust subsidiaries on lists of customers with sufficient funds to be interested in investment products. That should change. Banks will be stopped from passing on personal details without prior permission.

The code says: "Banks will observe a strict duty of confidentiality about their

customers' (and former customers') personal financial affairs and will not disclose details of customers' accounts or their names and addresses to any third party, including other companies within the same group."

There are four exceptions. Banks can provide information when legally compelled to do so, where there is a duty to the public to disclose, where the interests of a bank require disclosure or where it is made at the request or with the consent of the customer.

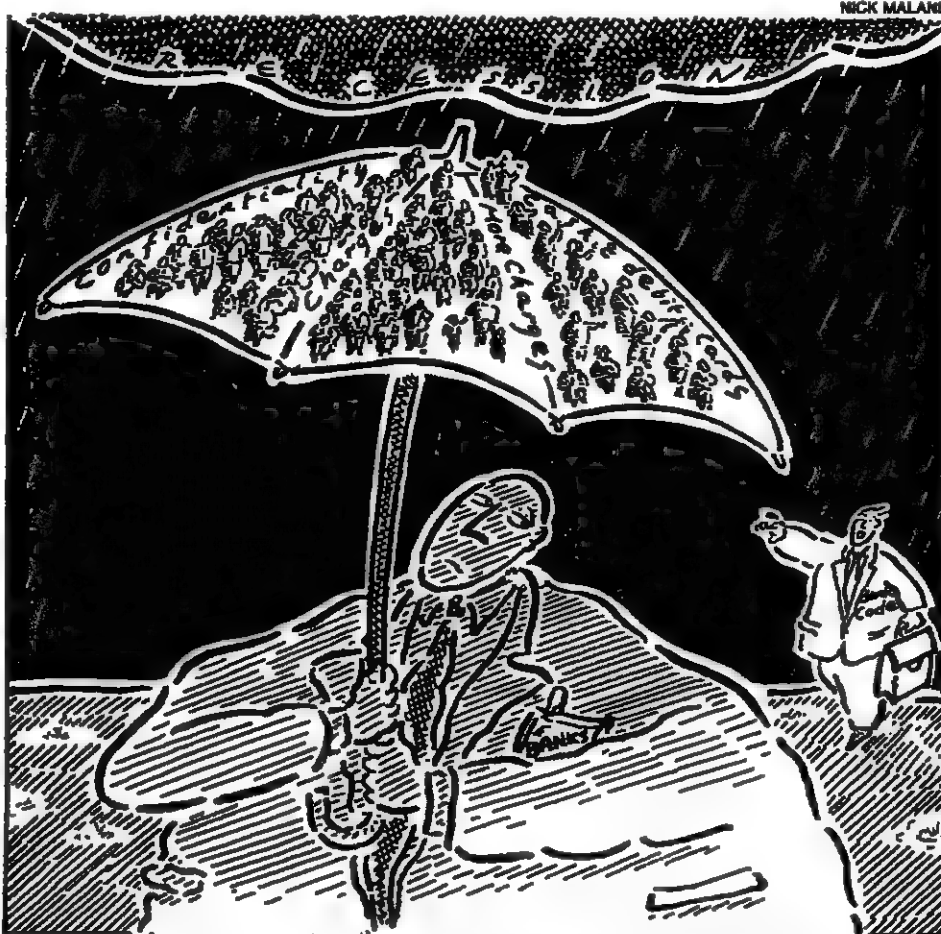
The code specifies that marketing purposes are not sufficient for information to be handed over.

The banks will also take responsibility for money withdrawn from a cash dispenser with a lost card, unless the customer's negligence or complicity can be proved. If, for example, the customer had written their identification number on the card, enabling a thief or finder to use it, he or she would be expected to stand the loss.

Card issuers will bear full losses incurred where the card has not been received by the customer, and for all transactions after the issuer has been notified of a loss. Those losses occurring before notification of a missing card or where someone else knows the identification number will be subject to a £50 maximum. This will only be increased if the customer has acted with "gross negligence".

The code says: "In cases of disputed transactions the burden of proving fraud or gross negligence or that a card has been received by a customer will lie with the card issuer."

In the draft code, the onus was on the customer to show that they had not been negligent. Jean Eaglesham, senior researcher at the Consumers' Association, said: "The area of debit cards and cash cards is



'The code will provide a minimum standard'

cries out for regulation. We should not have to rely on base law going back 100 years.

"Our real concern is about people's liability when there is the unauthorised use of a debit or cashcard. A rewrite of the contract is essential to protect the innocent customer," she said.

"Banks and building societies will have to stand the losses of an insecure system. In the longer term a move to a different system of authorisation for cash dispensers such as voice recognition or signature recognition should solve the problem." The association has seen a surge in complaints about new charges introduced by banks. "The perception is that banks are using personal customers to ease the effects of the recession."

A report in the latest edition of *Which?*, the association's magazine, highlighted the problems of some of its members. A 14 year old was charged £8 for closing his National Westminster account, while a Midland customer who was told that there were no charges for an Orchard account was sent a £10 bill for providing a list of his direct debits and standing orders.

Girobank to disclose details about accounts

By SARA MCCONNELL

GIROBANK has told its 2 million customers that from this week it will disclose information on their private banking affairs to credit reference agencies. Material could be handed over even if they are not behind with their payments, the bank says in leaflets detailing its revised terms and conditions.

In addition, the bank will pass on information for marketing purposes to its owner, the Alliance & Leicester Building Society.

Customers can only stop such disclosures if they write to the bank "within a reasonable time". The leaflet states: "As a responsible banker... Girobank may check with credit reference agencies about, and disclose to them, information relating to customers. If you do not wish us to disclose information for marketing purposes or to credit reference agencies we shall not do so within a reasonable time of receiving written notification from you (unless you are

in default when we reserve the right to disclose information to credit reference agencies)."

Customers will have to pay £10 to get access to information held about them on file.

The terms and conditions have been revised after the bank's sale to the Alliance & Leicester Building Society last year. This is the first time the bank has said it will hand on information on account holders' mortgages, bank balances and personal loans to credit reference agencies when they are not in default.

Any information passed to credit reference agencies is used by banks and other credit suppliers such as retailers, when they are processing applications for credit.

Girobank said: "We do not currently disclose while (where there is no default) information about our current account customers to credit reference agencies. However, we plan to do so on an exchange basis with credit reference agencies because we believe there are positive bene-

fits for us and our customers. We have a duty to avoid lending to those who might overstretch their commitments."

"Provision of this information will help us to identify better the good and bad risks. We would normally give a higher credit score to potential customers about whom we received a positive report and would help to ensure that we did not reject someone who we would otherwise accept."

"We see exchange of white information as contributing to our efforts to avoid fraud."

The banking code of practice should prevent the passing of details of customers' accounts or their names and addresses to any third party, including other companies within the group.

Banks do not normally pass on details about customers whose current accounts are not in default. The Office of Fair Trading, which licenses suppliers of credit and monitors credit policy, is to bring out a report on credit scoring and information use this year.

Limit to be set on losses from cash machines

PHANTOM withdrawals from cash dispensers continue to be a source of concern for customers since automatic teller machines (ATMs) were introduced. Until this year banks have refused to accept the possibility (Lindsay Cook writes).

This changed with the announcement in January that withdrawals could have been made from machines of Clydesdale Bank using information obtained while they were being serviced.

Both the banking and building societies ombudsmen sent questionnaires to banks and building societies with ATMs to check whether the problem could be more widespread.

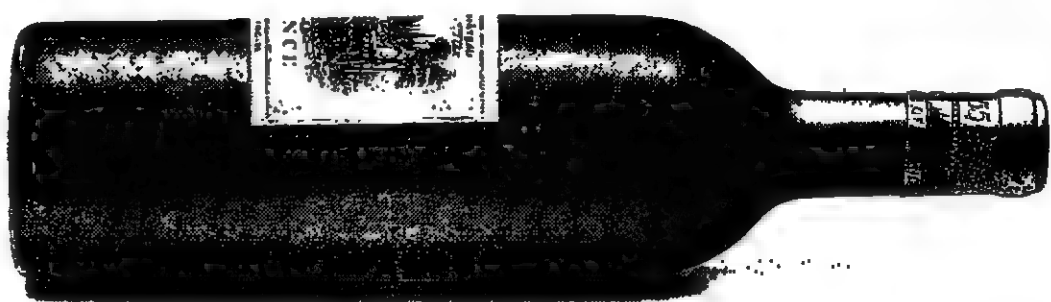
Chris Eadie, deputy banking ombudsman, said: "We are confident that it could not be done in the same way again. That does not mean some other fraudster could not do it in another way."

Terms and conditions of the

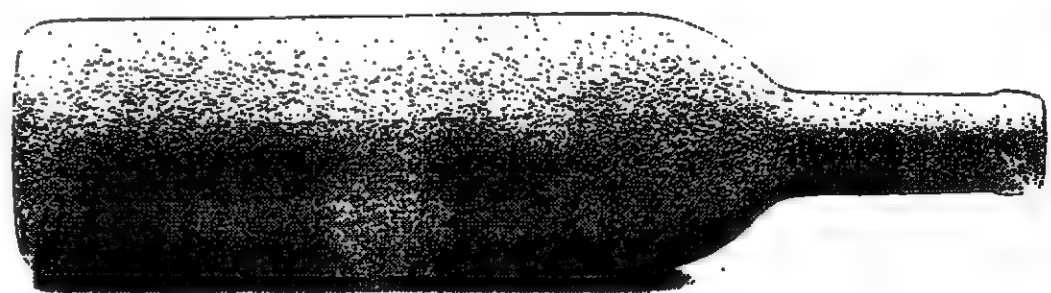
cards, however, can prevent customers winning compensation for money that they have not withdrawn and which the financial institution recognises has been taken by person or persons unknown.

In one case, £250 was withdrawn from the account of a Halifax Building Society customer while she was abroad and the card was in the safe custody of her elderly mother. Customers are liable for all withdrawals except those that happened after the society has been informed that the card or personal identification number have been stolen.

The code of practice, which will apply to banking services provided by building societies, should outlaw this condition, which is used by many building societies. The limit for losses will be £50 unless the customer has been grossly negligent. Several big banks have such a limit for losses from cash dispensers.



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Please complete and return the coupon to: Jane Innes, Martin Currie Investment Management Limited, 29 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4HA. Tel: 031 225 3811.

Please send me a copy of Scottish Eastern's 1991 Annual Report together with details and application forms for the Martin Currie Savings Plan.

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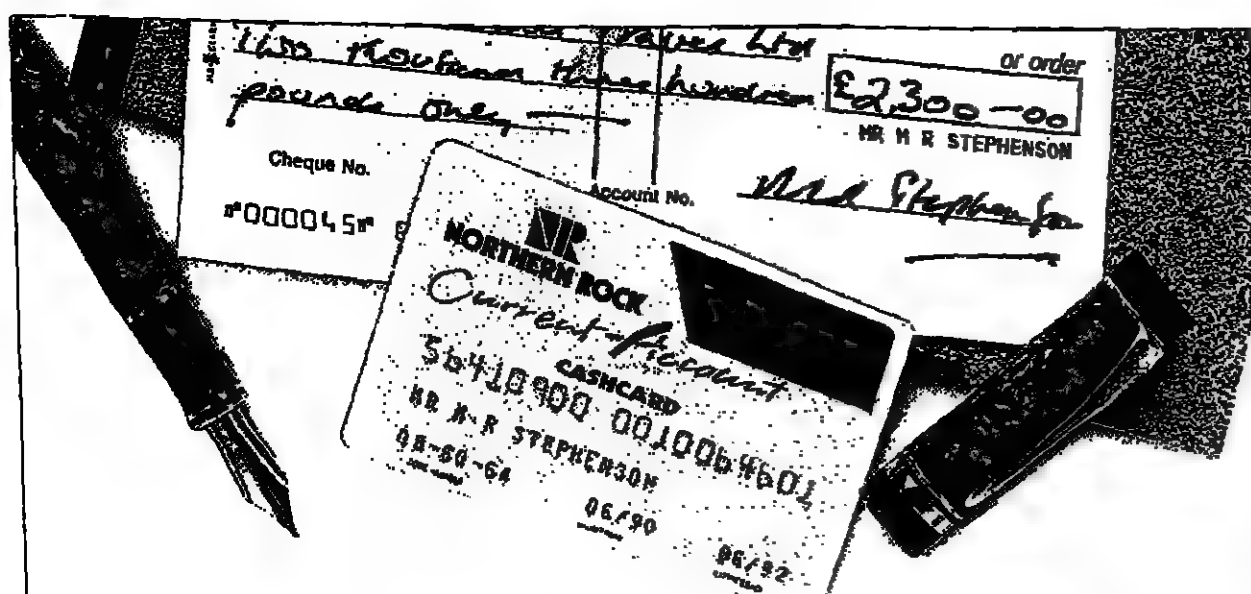
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*Source - Berry Bros & Rudd Limited. Last price of a £1 growth share listed since 1981 in 1991 and 1990.
**Source - Mirostat. Based on £2,000 invested in The Scottish Eastern Investment Trust plc and a higher rate building society account on 1 July 1981 with income re-invested.



11.16% 11.75%

gross gross c.a.r.*

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BALANCE	GROSS	GROSS C.A.R.*	NET	NET C.A.R.*
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£10,000+	10.12%	10.61%	7.39%	7.66%
£2,500+	9.18%	9.68%	7.11%	7.34%
£1,000+	6.25%	6.33%	4.66%	4.79%
£1+	4.85%	3.06%	3.71%	3.77%

Opening a Northern Rock Current Account is subject to status and conditions. Rates may vary, but are current at the time of going to press. * Grossed Annual Rate is the annual return on your savings if monthly interest payments are received in the account. Cheque guarantee card and overdraft facilities are available on application to customers over 18 years of age. Branches and Agents throughout the UK. Please consult Yellow Pages. Eligible for investment by Trustees. Member of the Building Societies Association. As we exceed £100,000 if you make your deposit by cheque, you will start earning interest from the day of receipt of the cheque. If you deposit by cash, interest starts from the day of receipt of the cash. If you deposit by cash, interest starts from the day of receipt of the cash. If you deposit by cash, interest starts from the day of receipt of the cash.

In Anne Westwood, Customer Services Manager, Northern Rock Building Society, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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Rule change puts end to BCCI payout abuse

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE rules for the banks' deposit protection scheme were changed this week to prevent customers of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) rearranging the status of their accounts to win bigger payouts.

The changes also mean that customers of other banks need to ensure any deposits are clearly held in the names of the owners of the money. The deposit protection scheme will pay up to a maximum of £15,000 per depositor.

Some city firms had been offering help in setting up bare trusts to allow deposits to be made in different names to get more than £15,000 from the scheme. In such trusts the scheme will pay not only the trustee but all the beneficial owners, up to the maximum.

The delay in the granting of the winding up petition for BCCI was allowing depositors to set up bare trusts so that the full amount on deposit would be covered by the scheme.

The statutory instrument laid before parliament stopped this and any future changes in account status when a bank is already in trouble. The effective date for establishing ownership of accounts is now the day a winding up petition is applied for and not when it is granted.

This will not make any difference to joint accounts held in banks that get into trouble in the future. Depositors who regard money as jointly owned should make this clear on documentation.

The scheme, set up under the Banking Act 1979, paid out £7.97 million last year. Compensation for depositors with the British & Commonwealth Bank and other failures this year had put the scheme under pressure even before BCCI was closed on July 5.

Banks now face paying about £200 million to compensate BCCI customers.

Only sterling deposits in the United Kingdom are covered. Customers wanting a claim form should telephone 071-

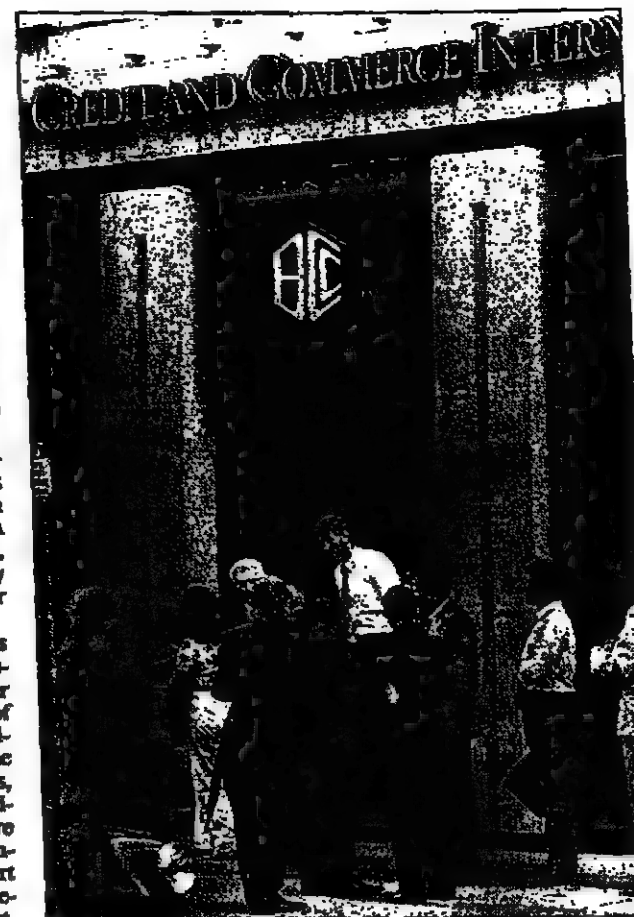
601 3655, or 071-601 3050 for help completing the form.

The statutory scheme brought in to cover building society deposits under the Building Societies Act 1986 has yet to make a payment. Societies in trouble tend to be taken over by larger and stronger societies.

This can lead to windfall benefits for investors in the form of a bonus when the merger goes ahead. The building society scheme guarantees 90 per cent of the first £20,000 per individual investor.

Society executives, however, believe that investors will never have to face such losses. They believe that if a society was allowed to fail, other societies would rally round and pay at least 90 per cent of deposits.

Small societies and banks are under pressure as depositors transfer money to larger institutions. In the case of small societies, they are finding it difficult to match the offers from the large lenders, are not allowed to offer fixed-rate mortgages, and are severely restricted on non-status mortgages and low start loans. Rising indemnity premiums are making their mortgages more expensive for first-time buyers.



BCCI compensation: loophole has been closed

BRIEFINGS

THE Midland Bank and the Abbey National have cut rates on savings accounts and tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas). The Abbey has cut rates on the Investment Account by 0.3 per cent. The High Yield Bond will pay 0.4 per cent less on balances of £10,000 upwards, while rates on the bank's instant access account, the Instant Server, are down 0.3 per cent. Abbey's Tessa rate has been set at 11.9 per cent, down from 12.45 per cent.

NatWest's Tessa now pays 11.5 per cent instead of 12 per cent. Other savings account rates are being cut by 0.2 to 0.6

per cent. Those with £10,000 or more in a Meridian current account, earning 0.6 per cent less. Rates have also been cut on other Midland accounts.

The new Capital Gold instant access investment account from the Nottingham Building Society will pay 9.19 per cent net, 12.25 per cent gross on balances of more than £50,000. Balances of between £5,000 and £49,999 will earn 9 per cent net, 12 per cent gross. All transactions must be carried out by pre-paid post to the society, which will provide a first class return of post service.

A guaranteed income bond

that allows savers to lock into a fixed return of 9.4 per cent a year (assuming basic rate tax) for three years is being offered by Chase de Vere, the independent investment company. The minimum investment is £5,000 and the capital is returned in full on maturity. There is also a growth bond option with a guaranteed return of 30.93 per cent. The return for a higher-rate tax payer is 26.3 per cent.

Terminal bonuses have increased for all Scottish Life pension and life policies with terms of more than ten years. Payouts on ten-year policies have remained static. The largest increase is on the 25-year policy, which will pay 3.3 per cent more than last year. A man aged 50 next birthday paying a monthly premium of £30 would have a total payout of £64,265, compared with £62,209 last year. The same holder of a 20-year policy maturing this year would get £36,774, up from £35,898. The ten-year payout would remain at £6,989.

Subsidence costs are unwarranted

From E. H. Steger
 Sir, In Weekend Money on July 6, various insurance companies discuss weather-induced subsidence of houses and the costs of repairs. In my opinion, based on 40 years' experience, the main reason for high costs is unnecessary underpinning. I have had to deal with some 90 such cases and have recommended underpinning on only four occasions. It always amazes me how often insurers accept underpinning when this is not warranted.

Yours faithfully,
 E. H. STEGER,
 16 Lingfield Road,
 Wimbledon Common, SW19.

No go for Saturday's child

From Master Christopher Morrow, aged 11
 Sir, I am writing to tell you about something I found out about last Saturday. I found out that I can't withdraw money from my NatWest bank account on Saturday mornings. Which is annoying as I am unable to go to the bank on Mondays to Fridays because I am at school, but I am too young for a cashcard so I have to go into the bank and as there is no counter service on Saturday I cannot withdraw money.

So what I have done, is I

have sent a letter to five other high street banks to see if they will allow me to withdraw money on Saturday mornings. The reason I decided to open a bank account was for two reasons.

- 1: In the Post Office bank there is a minimum of £5 deposit, and I don't always have enough to make up the minimum deposit.
 - 2: The NatWest in Derby opened on Saturday mornings which was just what suited me.
- I have been depositing and withdrawing money with them for over two years and I have only just been informed of the lack of counter service this Saturday, 27th July.
- As you see I am stuck in between a rock and a hard place so all I can do is send letters and complain.
- Yours faithfully,
 CHRISTOPHER MORROW,
 11 Castaway,
 Willington,
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The Premier Account - a prestigious current account with a gold VISA payments card, a £250 cheque guarantee facility, standing orders and direct debits.

The Classic Account - an interest-bearing current account with a VISA payments card, a £100 cheque guarantee facility, standing orders and direct debits, and no charges if in credit.

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE 27

MONEY MARKETS

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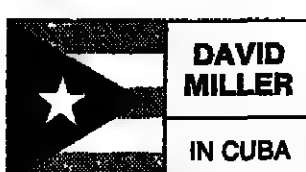
Cuba keeps faith with the people's choice



Helmick: earned approval

"YO quedo aqui," proclaim the propaganda posters around town: I stay here. There are plenty of persuasive reasons for leaving Cuba as Florida well knows: illegal immigrants seeking the good life and criminals mischievously exported by Fidel Castro's regime. Ideological differences can have varying practical consequences.

The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) has an annual budget of one hundred million dollars; or 50 cents per person per year, as Robert Helmick, the president of the USOC, prefers to say more modestly. This is the same sum as Cuba has spent on hosting the entire Pan American Games, less foreign loans, which began



yesterday. Such are the financial disparities resulting from Cuba's increasingly isolated pursuit of its brand of extreme socialism.

Confronted with an economic crisis a year ago, Cuba had the choice of pulling out, losing face and wasting money, or keeping going at the sacrifice of its people. To the people's credit, they wholly supported fulfilling their responsibility.

The irony of these Games is that they are serving to

close the gap between the, at times, neurotically unyielding political poles of Havana and the State Department in Washington. The Games will breach, like nothing before, the war of words, even to the extent of obliging Castro to moderate his hard-line policy in relation to the vilified United States.

El Presidente was light-hearted enough as he strolled and chatted among several hundred dinner guests at the Revolutionary Palace last night. Yet it must be disturbing for him that the Bush-Gorbachev summit talks specifically exclude financial aid to the Soviet Union during the continuation of Soviet assistance to Cuba. Castro is left with a difficult

political equation.

President Bush has already side-stepped the official US political line by giving Helmick informal approval for the US participation here. Helmick had specifically requested, following the political strife of the Moscow Olympic Games and Cuba's absence from Seoul in 1988, that, if the government had a problem, the USOC should be kept informed. The light has been continuously green.

Regular individual sports competitions, in baseball, boxing, water polo and others, have been taking place between Cuba and the US for some years. But a multi-sports event can, in the petty world of international politics, be identified with ideological approval of the opposition.

Before the 1987 Pan Am Games in Indianapolis, there had been tense negotiations with the State Department. With Shultz having to give the final go-ahead for the admission of the Cuban team, José Ramon Fernandez, leader of the Cuban team and a right-hand man of Castro in the revolution, was the highest-ranking Cuban to have been admitted to the United States since the overthrow of Batista in 1959.

Now, the presence of 723 US competitors, 400 officials, 200 family relations, 180 journalists and 200 television crew is likely to create the reverse of Orwell's dictum that international sport

is an unflinching cause of ill will.

As Manuel Gonzalez Guerra, the 75-year-old Cuban member of the International Olympic Committee, said yesterday: "The visitors from the 38 countries attending the Games will realise that we are having difficulties but, even so, we'll stage some top quality games. I think the Games will help open many doors for Cuba. The first thing the visitors will say is 'These Cubans are tough'."

The reaction of the US competitors has been one of uniform acclaim. Rick Oleksyk, from the handball team, said: "The people are so proud. They are making a big sacrifice for us because

they can see the bigger picture."

The Cuban and US accommodation in the village is side by side. Competitors react spontaneously without ideological inhibitions. Dr Eric Dennis, the US chef de mission, says that athletes interact by sport — divers with divers, cyclists with cyclists. "If you'd been to the disco last night," she said, "you'd have seen everyone having a good time. That's the beauty of this kind of competition."

Sports people can be as insensitive as anyone when the chips are down in competition yet one thing is certain: they are uniformly insensitive to political propaganda.

FA and League move closer together

Leading divisions hold the key to peaceful solution

By PETER BALL

THE first and second divisions will be asked to approve a vital restructuring of the English game next week. If they agree, the Football League Limited will become a subsidiary of the Football Association Limited.

The radical proposal has provided the basis for growing accord between the FA and the League, which emerged in the meetings this week between their respective chief executives, Graham Kelly and Arthur Sandford.

It offers a way out of the impasse between the two bodies and, at the same time, could provide an ideal way forward for the English game. "The most exciting thing is we are all talking about the professional game as a whole rather than the Premier League," said one interested party.

The crucial factor in favour of this route is that it will allow the League to be preserved under the control of the FA, although both recognise that the first division clubs will have to be granted the constitutional and commercial independence they have enjoyed under an

autonomous Premier League. Above the division's ruling body, the FA would form a Professional Football Committee — effectively an executive board, with representatives from the FA, League and Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) — to provide the unity of purpose which has so often been missing to the detriment of the game.

The beauty of the scheme is that it will satisfy all the protagonists involved in the hostilities this summer. The FA, whose authority was re-emphasised in court this week, will be clearly in control of the game while preserving much of the identity and heritage of the Football League.

It will also have an important practical application. The financial safety net, so essential for the lower division clubs and which has been threatened by the breakaway, would be assured.

The tax and contractual problems, which would be inherent in splitting up the League, would be avoided while ridding the League of the divisive management structure.

It will also give the lower divisions commercial autonomy but the preservation of the administrative functions of the League and its title would ensure that their status as members of the same club as the big five would be preserved.

Much now depends on the response of the first division, which would gain almost all it set out to achieve this summer. Some may insist that, if it went its own way, it could have everything rather than settling for 80 per cent under the new proposal. But the practical advantages, and the avoidance of problems with the PFA, could make it an attractive bargain.

□ Cesar Luis Menotti, who led Argentina to their World Cup victory in 1978, has been appointed manager of Mexico.

□ Arthur Albiston, the former Manchester United and Scotland defender, aged 34, has signed a one-year contract with Chester.

□ Wales will play Brazil at Cardiff Arms Park on September 11 as a warm-up for their European championship match with Germany in Nuremberg on October 16.

New laws criticised by Taylor

By DENNIS SHAW

GORDON Taylor, the chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), thinks that the number of sendings off in the coming season will be higher than it was in 1990-1. Taylor's pessimistic prediction came after a meeting in Birmingham on Thursday when managers, players and referees discussed two recent law amendments by Fifa, the sport's world governing body.

These include the introduction of mandatory sending off for deliberate handball to prevent a goalkeeping opportunity and a change regarding goalkeepers' "possession of the ball".

"The rumour over sendings off will be even worse this time than they were last season," he said. "There are 230 in 1990-1 and that figure is bound to climb now, with referees instructed to send players off for handling in addition to the professional physical foul."

In addition, a goalkeeper will now be deemed to be "in possession" as soon as he deliberately touches the ball, rather than when he actually gathers it.

Arsenal rehearse for trials ahead

By DENNIS SHAW

THE third Makita International tournament at Highbury today and tomorrow will give George Graham, the manager of the League champions, an early glimpse to assess two of the sides who could cross Arsenal's path in the later stages of the European Cup this season, Panathinaikos and Sampdoria.

Following Tuesday's draw against Celtic, in a game that exceptified all that is best in the British style of play, Graham is expecting Panathinaikos to provide a different test this afternoon with their cautious, tactical approach.

"I won't be changing Arsenal's style of play," Graham said yesterday. "We are going to play our own game. I have doubts about changing to a European style. I watched the French Cup final between Marseille and Monaco, where they both played five men in midfield. It was a very dull game indeed."

A problem for Arsenal is that Alan Smith, the leading scorer in the first division last season, will be deemed to be "in possession" as soon as he deliberately touches the ball, rather than when he actually gathers it.

dropped broad hints that his squad is "a bit short" and that newcomers may be on the way.

The tournament begins with newly-promoted West Ham United facing Sampdoria, the Italian champions, who include players of the calibre of Vialli and Mancini. Billy Bonds, the West Ham manager, whose side has been hard hit by injuries, has signed Mitchell Thomas from Tottenham Hotspur for £500,000 this week and taken Kenny Brown on loan from Plymouth Argyle. Thomas, however, will miss the tournament because of injury.

The game will provide West Ham with a test of their resources before their first division programme begins and also provides a platform for the vastly promising Stuart Slater to parade his skills. Slater had an admirer in Bobby Robson, the former England manager, and has since been selected for the England B side by Graham Taylor. Bonds has rejected an offer of £2 million for him from Celtic.

Arsenal won the original Makita tournament at Wembley in 1989, but lost 1-0 to Sampdoria in last year's final.

EQUESTRIANISM



Damning task: Martin Lucas, on Senator Marbella, tackles the derby trial course at Hickstead today

Heffer moves closer to dream

By JENNY MACARTHUR

PHILIP Heffer, who has nursed a lifelong ambition to win the Silk Cut Derby, had a copybook perspective when Thomas Frummann, of Austria, riding his Hamburg Derby winner, Grandeur, collected two time faults to finish third behind Robert.

Although the win was worth a comparatively meagre £2,500, it was hard fought. Eighty horses competed. Of these only six were clear over the long and difficult 13-fence course which included two elements of the Devil's Dyke and the "easy" side of the notorious Derby Bank.

Michel Robert, of France, was the first to jump clear in the jump-off but collected two time faults over a course which looked as if it had been under-measured.

Heffer, whose 14-year-old, Viewpoint, is "never over the time limit" jumped faultlessly but also collected one time fault. His round, however, was put in perspective when Thomas Frummann, of Austria, riding his Hamburg Derby winner, Grandeur, collected two time faults to finish third behind Robert.

The two derby favourites, Joe Turf with Vital, last year's winner, and Nick Skelton with Alan Paul Apollo, who are attempting a third win, both retired, as planned, after the sixth fence, Michael Bullman, the owner of Viewpoint, said: "It was a particularly difficult derby trial and we didn't want to tire him out. We're very pleased with the way he's jumping."

Skelton was also concerned to save the 16-year-old Apollo for tomorrow.

Heffer, who, unlike most of

his fellow riders, has a full-time job working in his father's meat packing business in Romford, has the opposite problem with the spirited Viewpoint. "I just hope that today hasn't quickened him up too much for Sunday," he said.

The Irish-bred gelding has competed in the derby only twice. He had 12 faults in 1988. The following year, when he won the Swedish Derby, he was one of only three who jumped clear at Hickstead but finished third after a jump-off.

An injury to his fetlock, sustained while out in the field, kept Viewpoint out of the competition last year. After a 2½-month lay-off he returned to the circuit last autumn and promptly won a class at Wem and the Zuidland grand prix in the Netherlands.

In deference to his age, Heffer now

keeps him for just a few shows. On Thursday, just before coming to Hickstead, he was the runner-up in the Henderson grand prix at the New Forest show.

John Whitaker, who underlined his credentials for the derby when finishing first on Henderson Hopscotch and third on Henderson Gammon in the Irish Derby ten days ago, finished seventh on Gammon with four faults and collected eight on Hopscotch. New Zealand's Mark Todd and Kleener Double Take, the runners-up in the Dubai grand prix at Hickstead in June, also had a reassuring outing to finish on eight faults.

RESULTS: 1. Viewpoint (P. Heffer), 1 fault, 24.5sec; 2. Nona (M. Robert), 2, 25.22; 3. Grandeur (T. Frummann, Austria), 2, 25.98; 4. Brook Street Silver Duet (J. Smith), 3, 26.11; 5. Henderson Monarch (M. Whitaker), 4, 26.63.

MOTOR SPORT

Different formulae fit into one track

By STEPHEN SLATER

THERE is a rare chance to see Britain's two premier single-seater motor racing championships in head-to-head competition, at Snetterton, Norfolk, this weekend: Formula Three versus International Formula 3000.

Formula Three, cars powered by production-based two-litre engines, has been the traditional stepping stone into international categories for aspiring grand prix drivers for more than 25 years. Mika Hakkinen, of Finland, the 1990 champion, has moved on to driving in Formula One and the front runners in the series, Rubens Barrichello, of Brazil, and David Coulthard, of Scotland, are both keen to emulate him.

However, Formula Three has in recent years faced increasing pressure from a new national championship, run for year-old cars which have previously raced in the International Formula 3000 series.

These three-litre cars are powered by engines closely based on Formula One technology. Developing 450bhp, twice the power of Formula Three cars, they offer added challenges for their drivers and increased spectacle for viewers.

Drivers are still shocked by the death of Paul Warwick, who was killed in the previous race at Oulton Park. Warwick's team, Mansell Madgwick Motorsport, is planning to race at Snetterton, with Marco Greco, of Brazil, and Gary Ayles as their drivers. Phil Andrews, the Birmingham driver, and his teammate in the Lola cars will be the top opposition.

BOWLS

Baker out to pull off repeat

By DAVID RHYS JONES

JEAN Baker, of Alfreton, will meet Wendy Line, of Southampton, who she beat in the 1989 final, to decide the two-wood final in the national women's championship today.

It was almost an all-Derbyshire final at Royal Leamington Spa, as Norma Hazzledine, the county's president, forced her way into the semi-finals before losing narrowly to Line.

RESULTS: Two wood singles: Second round: M. Woods (Spartans, West, Lowestoft) vs A. Mansfield (City and County of Oxford), 15-11; Third round: B. Hinchinson (Boscombe, Solihull) vs L. Thelwell (Marlow), 15-14; C. Shorro (Tues, Brackley) vs J. H. L. (Southampton), 15-10; D. Jones (Petersborough) vs E. Fletcher (Poole Park), 17-6; N. Hazzledine (Leamington) vs J. Baker (Alfreton), 15-11; J. Baker (Alfreton) vs P. Roberts (Rushock, Stevenage), 15-10; G. Daniel (Pennyhill) vs B. Bennett (Trent), 15-10; C. Jones (Petersborough) vs J. Woods, 17-9; Quarter-final: B. Baker (Alfreton) vs J. H. L. (Southampton), 15-11; Line vs Hinchinson, 15-13; Shorro vs Daniel, 17-6; Semi-finals: Baker vs Shorro, 15-8; Line vs Hazzledine, 15-10; Pair: Quarter-finals: D. Farnham and J. Colver (Torbryan) vs M. Saunders and G. Colver (Buckley), 22-12.

POLO

New boys give Windsor Park a fright

By JOHN WATSON

GEORFFREY Kent's Windsor Park defeated Richard Guess's squad, Rowleys (received 1½) by eight goals to seven and a half in the semi-finals of the high-goal Cowdroy Park Challenge Cup at Cowdroy Park, Sussex, yesterday.

Rowleys, a local team who were assembled only this season, lost two of their regular members, Aguerre and Tari, and recruited Charles Graham and Patrick Churchward to fill the gaps. But, still pivoted on the nine-handicap Argentine, Omar Sosa, they displayed effective teamwork — especially considering they had received a bye and this was their first match in the tournament.

There was no score in the first

chukka. But the second was essentially Rowleys. In it Sosa, Churchward and Guess each found the Windsor flags — Guess placing himself just right to take Sosa's pass. At half-time they lead 5½-4.

Windsor, led by Pite Merlos, their ten-goal No. 3, and backing one another up in fine style, had the best of the fourth chukka, and went ahead for the

first time at 6-5½ with a straight long goal by Kent. In the fifth chukka, when Rowleys scored twice again, it looked like to be anyone's game until the last bell.

WINDSOR PARK, 1. G. Kent (10), 2. R. Matthews (13), 3. P. Merlos (10), 4. Back, 5. O. Sosa (8), 6. P. Churchward (4), 7. O. Sosa (8), 8. P. Churchward (4), 9. LOS LOCOS, 1. C. Tomlinson (5), 2. M. Woods (10), 3. M. P. Amos (7), 4. Back, 5. Tomlinson (5), 6. P. Churchward (4), 7. Back, 8. Tomlinson (5), 9. COWDROY PARK, 1. C. Pearson (2), 2. T. E. Cummings (8), 3. A. Farn (7), 4. Back, 5. P. Withers (7).

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Cottrell-led consortium saves Leigh

TONY Cottrell, the forward who walked out on Leigh six months ago, yesterday emerged as the club's saviour (Keith Macklin writes).

The administrator of the debt-ridden second division club, Peter Adcroft, accepted an undisclosed bid by a consortium led by Cottrell, who is a local businessman. They have bought the players and the title and taken up a licence to use the Hilton Park ground for the 1991-2 season.

It seems that the club, with total debts of £1.1 million, might have gone out of existence when it was put up for sale and there were no early takers at the offer price of £650,000.

Cottrell, who walked out after alleging that he was not being paid either wages or contract fees, said yesterday that a "fighting fund" would be launched in the town to help raise the money to purchase Hilton Park outright.

Finals relived once more with feeling

By KEN LAWRENCE

MENTION the FA Cup final to Joy Montgomery and you hardly have time to say "shock result" before she has a video of that Sunderland victory over Leeds United 18 years ago out of its case and running. She is no football addict, but will happily watch every day as her husband, Jim, plays his role in a part of north-eastern folklore.

Few who watched at Wembley on that May Saturday in 1973 will forget it — although Yorkshiremen prefer not to be reminded of it. Don Revie's Leeds United were in their prime; the Liverpool of that era, Sunderland were a second division club, managed by a journeyman called Bob Stokoe and living on memories of long-gone great days.

One goal from Ian Porterfield and a brilliant save by Montgomery left Revie growling and Stokoe dancing across Wembley in a hat apparently borrowed from



Sunderland folk have grown up on the legend? People who were not born in 1973 still want to talk about "that day".

Montgomery reveals that, such was his concentration, he never heard the crowd after he had walked from the tunnel. But he will never forget Porterfield's goal after 32 minutes. "My first thought then was if I kept a clean sheet we

had won the Cup".

Even David Coleman, commentator on the BBC video, called it 1-1 in the second half when "Monty" made his supreme double save. Cherry headed goalwards; somehow Montgomery parried it. The ball went only to Lorimer, the Scot with the game's hardest shot, unmarked on the six-yard line. The goalkeeper, on

his knees, somehow deflected the ball on to the crossbar.

You can see it tonight and also marvel at the commentary of Coleman. A Sky Sports production assistant, used to the battery of commentators and analysts that football broadcasts demand in the Nineties, asked in amazement: "Is he all on his own?" Coleman was indeed alone.

THE WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Today

FOOTBALL (3.0 unless stated): Makita tournament (Highbury) West Ham United v Sampdoria (11.0), Arsenal v Panathinaikos (3.30) Four-club tournament: Rangers v Coventry City Pre-season matches: AFC Wrexham v Southampton (2.30), Thurston v Dundee v Warrington, Durness v Bank Darnley, Enfield v Brentford, Fulham v Crystal Palace, Gillingham v Exeter, Gillingham v Doncaster Rovers, Heart of Midlothian v Real Sociedad, Scarborough v Barnsley, St John v Oxford United, Tottenham v Tottenham Athletic, Walsley v Norwich City, Merton v Newmarket United.

ATHLETICS: AAA/WAAA Combined events championships (Stoke-on-Trent); AAA 100m road race championships (Stoke-on-Trent); Wrexham Games; BVAF 10-mile championships (Gosport).

SWIMMING: English women's national championships (Lamington Spa); Bournemouth Open tournament.

EQUESTRIANISM: Silk Cut British show jumping (Highbury); British dressage (Highbury); Cylindric: Wrexham Classics (Highbury, 8.15).

(LEWIS: European women's championships (Gillingham); GOLF: Wests: British women's Open (Gillingham); GOLF: Wests: British women's Open (Gillingham); MOTOR CYCLING: British grand prix (Donington Park); Chempion of Cadwell (Donington Park); POLO: Holden White Challenge Cup; Cowdroy Park Challenge Cup (both Donington Park); Wrexham Games; BVAF 10-mile championships (Gosport); SWIMMING: ASA championships (Leeds); YACHTING: Lakeside: British national (Torbryan); National 12 Burton Week (Highbury).

Tomorrow

FOOTBALL (3.0 unless stated): Makita tournament (Highbury) West Ham United v Sampdoria (11.0), Arsenal v Panathinaikos (3.30) Four-club tournament: Rangers v Coventry City Pre-season matches: AFC Wrexham v Southampton (2.30), Thurston v Dundee v Warrington, Durness v Bank Darnley, Enfield v Brentford, Fulham v Crystal Palace, Gillingham v Exeter, Gillingham v Doncaster Rovers, Heart of Midlothian v Real Sociedad, Scarborough v Barnsley, St John v Oxford United, Tottenham v Tottenham Athletic, Walsley v Norwich City, Merton v Newmarket United.

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ATHLETICS

Regis poised to cause rethink in the fast lane

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, MONTE CARLO

IN THIS adopted home of racing drivers, tennis players and golfers — Monte Carlo — Lewis and Burrell head the list of those who have property here — the athletes have taken up temporary residence. The IAAF Mobil grand prix has come to Monaco, purchased for less than it takes to run Ayrton Senna's McLaren through the streets on Formula One weekend.

A £700,000 budget has bought not only the fastest engines of 1991 — Burrell, Lewis, Johnson and Regis — but a vintage model or two. Cram against Aoutia in the 1,500 metres. The last time these two world-record breakers met, Mansell was not even contemplating retirement, let alone his comeback.

Aoutia has had more injury problems than Cram during the past two years; consequently he has yet to achieve the world championship qualifying time of 3min 37.00sec and has only 11 more days in which to get it. For that reason, meeting officials were assuming yesterday afternoon that, although he had entered the 5,000 metres as well, Aoutia would contest the shorter distance. It would have been helpful, they said, if he had called to let them know. But Aoutia has grown no less awkward during his two years away and no one could be sure if he was coming, or which distance he would run.

But, for Cram, there are new names to worry about, among them Morceli, the world's fast-

est last year and this. No such problems with the sprinters. All were here, except Lewis and Burrell travelling from Italy by helicopter on Thursday. The International Amateur Athletic Federation grand prix? Lewis and Burrell could afford apartments for themselves and a helicopter in the Senna neighbourhood if they had a mind to.

Regis has been here for a week. He will need to feel settled because, for the first time this season, he races Johnson, whose name is already on the world championship 200 metres gold medal in most people's opinion. Regis is out to prove most people wrong.

"If I could take Johnson's scalp it would give me a boost," he said yesterday. And have the experts thinking again.

The strength phase of his programme for Tokyo now advanced, Regis has been concentrating on speed and technique. He had wanted to run the 100 metres but decided too late to gain admission. "Depending on how my technique goes, I could run anything between 20.00sec and 20.50," he said. Linford Christie's British record is 20.09sec; Regis's best 20.11.

The three main Tokyo contenders are present: Johnson (20.02sec this season), Frankie Fredericks (20.08) and Regis (20.12). "I know I am ready to run fast," Johnson said. If he does not, Regis could end his long unbeaten record.

Athlete to appeal against life ban

ROBERT Hamilton-Jones, the first British athlete to be banned for life for failing to take a drugs test, yesterday described his punishment as "ludicrous". Hamilton-Jones, aged 20, was astonished by the severity of the sentence imposed after he refused to give a urine sample following a 5,000 metres race for Team Solent in a GRE Cup match last month.

Hamilton-Jones, a student in Bournemouth, claimed that he had been unable to provide a sample because he was dehydrated and left as he was going to be late for his holiday job as a language teacher.

"If anyone thinks I take drugs, they only have to look at me," Hamilton-Jones said. "I'm the antithesis of a drug-taker, a screwy, 5ft 10in middle distance runner. I am going to appeal against this, and I have no doubt that logic will prevail, because it's ludicrous. But if they still say they don't want me, then I wouldn't want to be part of the sport that could do that anyway."

His case cannot be compared to that of Jeff Gutteridge, the international pole vaulter, who was tested positive when training in Lanzarote three years ago and was the first Briton to be

banned for life. Hamilton-Jones has not maintained the leading hundred 5,000 metres runners in Britain.

Tony Ward, the British Amateur Athletic Board spokesman, refused a suggestion that Hamilton-Jones had been dealt with heavily-handedly. "All the correct procedures were carried out, and he was warned as to the consequences of walking out without giving a sample," he said.

When the competitors arrive in Stoke this weekend for the AAA 10-kilometre road race championship, they might pass Hamilton-Jones, the AAA track champion at the distance, leaving town in the opposite direction (David Powell writes).

Stoke will become the centre of British 10,000 metres running for a weekend when the AAA championship, moved from its traditional winter spot to tomorrow, will be preceded today by a stage-managed 10,000 metres track race to help Thackeray achieve the world championship qualifying time. This is Thackeray's last chance to secure his seat on the plane for Tokyo; if he fails, Andy Bristow, Briton's second man home in the world cross-country championship, will be given the place.

ROWING

Junior scullers crown fine British display

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT, BANYOLES

BRITAIN has six crews featuring in today's world junior championship finals, after a mature performance by Doreen Hony and Chris Elmitt in yesterday's double sculls semi-final.

The crew retained its composure in fifth place to halfway, before overtaking Switzerland in the third quarter and France soon after 1,500 metres. Hony and Elmitt are the first British junior scullers to reach a final since 1985.

Of the 28 nations competing, only Germany and Czechoslovakia have more than six finalists. The United German team has most, with finalists in all 14 events.

Despite the good performance, winning medals will be difficult. The men's coxless four leads the attack, but a titanic six-row battle is in prospect, with Germany, Australia and Czechoslovakia the major threats. Germany and the Soviet Union look to be the fastest eight, but the other four crews,

Great Britain included, were separated by no more than 20 feet on Thursday. The men's coxless four's form, like their predecessors in 1990, suggests that they will finish outside the medals, but their coach, Julian Fox, produced bronze from a similar situation last year. The women's coxless four, with two good races behind them, would create history with a medal of any hue.

Patricia Reid's appeal against her omission from the British team for the world championships has been dismissed by the Amateur Rowing Association appeals panel. Reid said that she had been sympathetic, but had ruled that Mark Lee, the director of performance, had acted correctly.

FINAL QUALIFIERS: Men's Double Sculls: Norway 6:28, Belgium 6:42, Great Britain 6:44, Germany 6:24, Czechoslovakia 6:32, Yugoslavia 6:38, Great Britain 6:40, Italy 6:44, Poland 6:57, France 6:58, Soviet Union 6:58, Portugal 6:11 (Great Britain race in C row).

RESULTS: Men's Double Sculls: 1. Norway 6:28, 2. Belgium 6:42, 3. Great Britain 6:44, 4. Germany 6:24, 5. Czechoslovakia 6:32, 6. Yugoslavia 6:38, 7. Great Britain 6:40, 8. Italy 6:44, 9. Poland 6:57, 10. France 6:58, 11. Soviet Union 6:58, 12. Portugal 6:11 (Great Britain race in C row).

SQUASH RACKETS

Martin leads charge

By COLIN MCKILLIAN

THE group of leading Australian players which has carried the two dominant Pakistanis around the world in recent seasons, with little reward, closed in for the kill in Adelaide yesterday.

Rodney Martin comprehensively defeated Jansher Khan, the defending champion, to give the host country three players, along with Jahangir Khan, in the semi-finals of the world open championships.

Jahangir, aged 27, who has not held the world championship since 1988, meets Chris Robertson, the 15-12, 8-15, 15-12, 15-12 winner of an all-Australian quarter-final with Brett Martin.

It was the younger Martin who stole the headlines, how-

ever, with his 39-minute 15-8, 15-7, 15-9 defeat of Jansher, who took a 5-2 lead to the opening game, but never rose to the counter-attack launched by the gangling Australian.

Chris Dittmar, playing in front of his home crowd, demolished another Australian, Anthony Hill, 15-6, 15-3, 15-5 in 22 minutes and will play Rodney Martin in his semi-final.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: R Martin (Aus) vs Jansher Khan (Pak), 15-8, 15-7, 15-9; C Robertson (Aus) vs B Martin (Aus), 15-12, 8-15, 15-12, 15-12; A Hill (Aus) vs C Dittmar (Aus), 15-6, 15-3, 15-5; J Khan (Pak) vs R Martin (Aus), 15-8, 15-7, 15-9.



Striding clear: Sahara Star, John Reid aboard, comfortably winning the Molecomb Stakes at Goodwood yesterday

Cole maintains momentum as Fly Away Soon surges ahead

By MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT

PAUL Cole's remarkable season continued at Goodwood yesterday when the one-time French Derby candidate Fly Away Soon returned to his best when beating Magnificent Star by three-quarters of a length after a driving finish in the Schroders Glorious Stakes.

The patience that Cole has shown in his training of Generous has again been in evidence in his handling of Fly Away Soon who, after winning so impressively at Kempton in April, had hung badly when disappointing in a listed race on the same track and again when winning a minor event at Lingfield.

"He developed a back problem, which became worse after Lingfield. So we just had to give him time to get over it," Cole said.

In both his earlier wins Fly Away Soon had made virtually all the running. But yesterday Richard Quinn bided his time before bringing the 8-1 winner through to catch the favourite inside the last furlong.

"We didn't feel there was any pressure on us today," Cole continued. "So we thought we'd experiment by having him held up. We'll now try and find a group race for him in Italy."

Fly Away Soon's galloping companion in some spectacular work at Whatcombe on Wednesday was Ruby Tiger, but unfortunately Sue Blacker's admirably consistent filly is by no means a

certain runner in this afternoon's Nassau Stakes. "She worked brilliantly," said the trainer, "but she bruised her near-front foot. She's had a poultice on ever since and it's only 60-40 on her being fit to run."

The Leslie and Godwin Spinfire Handicap had looked to present an almost insoluble problem beforehand. But Lord Huntingdon, the trainer of the 25-1 winner Green Danube, was almost as surprised by the result as was the crowd of 14,624 — an increase of 13.5 per cent on the same day last year — at the track.

Alan Munro, the big-race jockey at the moment, was again seen at his best when forcing Green Danube to beat three-and-a-half lengths clear of Ring Runs with Talos finishing a neck away third.

"I told Alan to be very patient and to ride for a place, although he obviously was to try and win if he could."

But I only declared her because there's so much fluff about and I thought it worth taking the chance," the winning trainer reported.

Owned in partnership by Lord Westcock and his son Simon, yesterday's winner was having only her second run of the season. "She was injured in the box that was taking her out to Cagnes-sur-Mer in February. She had to stay there for a month and then when we got her back she was turned out at Newmarket."

The trainer now plans to find a listed race in Ireland for the filly whose previous win was gained on the all-weather track at Lingfield.

The afternoon had started on a good note for punters when John Reid had driven Sahara Star to a length-and-a-half length defeat of Another Episode in the Philip Cornes Molecomb Stakes. The winning 3-1 favourite, previously

so impressive when scoring at Sandown, showed immense courage and class to beat the experienced and speedy runner-up.

Michael Stoute trained the Green Desert filly for Trevor Sellar from Trinidad. "I won three races for him with No Clouds in my first season training," said the trainer from Freemason Lodge. "Then I bought Dervarg from Pat Rohan and sent her out to him in Trinidad. She was eventually sent back to Britain and her first foal was Vaigly Great."

Yesterday's winning filly is a half-sister to Vaigly Great, winner of the Ayr Gold Cup and Diadem Stakes.

Sahara Star is entered in all the principal races for two-year-old fillies, such as the Lowther Stakes, the Moylagre Stud Stakes and the Cheveley Park Stakes.

At the end of another magnificent afternoon's racing, Willie Carson and Steve Cauthen shared the lead in the race for the Ritz Club trophy, awarded to the leading rider at the meeting. Both men had enjoyed three winners apiece after Cauthen had driven the 11-8 favourite Mougins to a three-quarters of a length defeat over Lake Dominion in the Citroen Fleet Stakes and Carson had forced Mutabahi past the post half a length in front of the 5-4 on favourite Kayvee in the Chichester City Stakes.

Postcard, page 20

Owners plan cutbacks

By RICHARD EVANS

FORTY per cent of owners are planning to cut back on the number of horses they have in training over the next year, according to a survey carried out by Racing World.

Just over half — 52 per cent — currently have three or more horses in training. Only three per cent of those questioned intend to increase their ownership, per cent plan no change, and 22 per cent don't know.

The survey did not go into the reasons for the worrying trend, but it is likely to be a combination of the recession, increased

training costs and poor prize money.

The latest edition of Racing World also casts some light on the controversial issue of how training bills should be paid. Kim Bracey, who gave up training last year partly because of large bills unpaid by owners, has suggested training fees should be collected centrally by Weatherbys.

Just over half — 53 per cent — of trainers questioned said owners should be compelled to pay training fees under the Rules of Racing.

Goodwood

2.30 (9) 1. SAHARA STAR (J. Reid, 2-1) 2. Another Episode (P. Eddowes, 5-2) 3. Regal Chimes (S. Brown, 35-1) 4. Leading Time (B. W. Power, 10-1) 5. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 6. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 7. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 8. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 9. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 10. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 11. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 12. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 13. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 14. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 15. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 16. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 17. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 18. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 19. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 20. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 21. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 22. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 23. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 24. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 25. Regal Chimes (H. B. M. Power, 10-1) 26. 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Gussy Marlowe has fine chance

ON ALL known form, Gussy Marlowe, from Clive Britain's Newmarket stable, has a sound chance of winning the Vodafone Nassau Stakes at Goodwood today, more especially now that she will be racing over ten furlongs again.

It was over today's trip that she won a listed race at Newmarket and a group three race at York in the spring.

In the former she got the better of Broctoke, who subsequently finished third in the Italian Oaks, while in the latter she beat Dartry and Shamshir.

Shamshir, who is one of her rivals again today, later finished second in the Oaks at Epsom before disappointing in the Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot.

Gussy Marlowe's only sub-

sequent race, also at Royal Ascot, was anything but a disappointment. Her third to the Irish and English 1,000 Guineas winners, Kooyonga and Shadyard, in the Coronation Stakes was arguably the best performance of her career since the French 1,000 Guineas winner Danseuse Du Soir was a neck behind in fourth place. Also, the race was over only a mile.

Michael Roberts, who has ridden Gussy Marlowe in all her races, has now been claimed by Alec Stewart to partner Fila Andross, whose only race so far this season has been at Sandown where she finished fourth behind Gwynn Stakes and North Wind, who was also third in the Cheshire Oaks after winning her maiden at Newbury, complete the field.

Pat Eddery rides Reg Akers's Fire Top, who can go one better than last year in the Royal Chesterfield Cup in which he finished second to Song Of Silence.

Whereas Song Of Silence has rather lost his way this season, he was last behind Jijahad at Ascot a week ago - Fire Top has shown that he is as good as ever by finishing second in the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club Trophy at Sandown after winning a similar valuable prize at Epsom on Derby day.

Jijahad has been re-rated since beating Top Press by a neck last Saturday and a more likely winner for Dick Hern and Willie Carson this afternoon is Bessie, who is fancied to make a winning debut in the Vodafone Nassau Stakes.

At Newmarket, the Lynda Ramsden-trained Combination could be the answer to the puzzle posed by the Colman's Of Norwich Nursery. Even though this is a handicap, he should find life easier compared with when he took on Dr Devious in his last race on the July course and Dilm at Royal Ascot the time before.

Earlier, he had won over today's trip at Nottingham and Pontefract.

Today's best bet though is held in reserve for the evening meeting at Windsor where Guy Harwood's progressive three-year-old Duke Of Monmouth is napped to win the Courage Beer Company Handicap, having sidestepped the big handicap at Goodwood yesterday in order to wait for this easier chance.

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GOODWOOD

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	MICHAEL SEELY
2.00 Bessie	2.00 Bessie	2.00 Bessie
2.00 Fire Top	2.00 Jijahad	2.00 Jijahad
3.10 Gussy Marlowe	3.10 Gussy Marlowe	3.10 Gussy Marlowe
3.45 Kentucky Starlet	3.45 Kentucky Starlet	3.45 Kentucky Starlet
4.15 Dizzy	4.15 Dizzy	4.15 Dizzy
4.45 Dawson Place	4.45 Dawson Place	4.45 Dawson Place
5.20 Grey Power	5.20 Raise A Star	5.20 Raise A Star

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.30 CAMDEN'S RANSOM.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 6F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.00 VODAFONE NASSAU STAKES (2-Y-O; £5,848; 6f) (7 runners)
101 (2) ANDER (M) Mountain View (M) 9-0 J Williams
102 (2) BEAM ME UP SCOTTY (M) 9-0 T Quinn
103 (2) IN THE PICTURE (M) D Atwood R Hannan 9-0 Pat Eddery
104 (2) NASHDOWN (M) Johnson Houghton R Johnson Houghton 9-0 J Field
105 (2) BASMA (M) Houghton Houghton 9-0 W Carson
106 (2) SHAPING BELLA (M) Houghton Danyse Smith 9-0 B House
107 (1) BATTING UP (M) 5 Pages) Bidding 9-0 R Cochrane

BETTING: 9-4 Bessie, 11-4 In The Picture, 9-2 Shaping Up, 1-1 Nashdown, Beam Me Up Scotty, 10-1 Anders, 12-1 Bidding.

1990: MAJIDOOD 9-0 W R Swinburn (5-4 fav) M Stoute 8 ran

FORM FOCUS
ANDER (handed 2), half-brother by Heights Of Gold to 8-71 winner Segways.
IN THE PICTURE (M) cost £20,000, half-brother by Tally Ho to useful stayer Crusader Castle. Dam is a half-sister to a MRF 71 winner NASHDOWN (Apr 28, 4:00pm), half-brother by Neighbours to a winner in the United States.
JACK, winner of 4 races from 1m 41.2m, BASMA (Feb 24, 8:57.00), sister to Dawn Coburn, graded stakes winner in the United States.

2.30 RACAL CHESTERFIELD CUP HANDICAP (25,570; 1m 2f) (10 runners)

201 (2) 551-500 SONG OF SILENCE 7 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 J Field
202 (2) 551-500 FIRE TOP 2 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 Pat Eddery
203 (2) 551-500 LORD OF THUNDER 2 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 D Holland
204 (1) 551-500 LUTHER 2 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Carson
205 (1) 551-500 BUSTED ROCK 3 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 L Piggott
206 (1) 551-500 TRY TRUST 7 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 M Roberts
207 (1) 551-500 VARNISH 15 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 D Holland
208 (1) 551-500 USTA DOLLAR 7 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 D Holland
209 (1) 551-500 CELESTIAL GUEST 10 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 D Holland
210 (1) 551-500 CAMDEN'S RANSOM 21 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 D Holland

BETTING: 4-1 Fire Top, 9-2 Lord of Thunder, 9-2 Busted Rock, 10-1 Camden's Ransom, Varnish, 12-1 Song of Silence, Try Trust, 16-1 Celestial Guest, 20-1 Usta Dollar.

1990: CAMDEN'S RANSOM 9-0 S Causton (9-2) Bidding 7 ran

FORM FOCUS
SONG OF SILENCE best 1m 2f on 11th July at Doncaster (1m 2f 50.00), good to June.
FIRE TOP 1st 2nd on 11th July at Doncaster (1m 2f 50.00), good to June.
LUTHER 1st 2nd on 11th July at Doncaster (1m 2f 50.00), good to June.
BUSTED ROCK 1st 2nd on 11th July at Doncaster (1m 2f 50.00), good to June.
TRY TRUST 1st 2nd on 11th July at Doncaster (1m 2f 50.00), good to June.
VARNISH 1st 2nd on 11th July at Doncaster (1m 2f 50.00), good to June.
USTA DOLLAR 1st 2nd on 11th July at Doncaster (1m 2f 50.00), good to June.
CELESTIAL GUEST 1st 2nd on 11th July at Doncaster (1m 2f 50.00), good to June.
CAMDEN'S RANSOM 1st 2nd on 11th July at Doncaster (1m 2f 50.00), good to June.

COURSE SPECIALISTS
W. Carson 7 25 25.0
M. Roberts 7 25 25.0
L. Piggott 7 25 25.0
D. Holland 7 25 25.0
M. Stoute 7 25 25.0
G. Harwood 7 25 25.0

NEW MARKET

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	MICHAEL SEELY
2.15 Vertex	2.15 Vertex	2.15 Vertex
2.45 Unanimous	2.45 Unanimous	2.45 Unanimous
3.20 Silent Respect	3.20 Silent Respect	3.20 Silent Respect
3.50 Paris Of Troy	3.50 Paris Of Troy	3.50 Paris Of Troy
4.20 Combination	4.20 Combination	4.20 Combination
5.50 Jewellery Quarter	5.50 Jewellery Quarter	5.50 Jewellery Quarter
5.25 Linpar Light	5.25 Linpar Light	5.25 Linpar Light

GUIDE TO OUR LINEAR RACING

103 112 0-452 GOOD TIMES 74 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 B West 4 85

Recorded number Draw in brackets. 5-figure form (F - fav, P - pulled up, U - unsatisfied rider, L - brought down, S - stopped, R - retired, D - disqualified). Horse's name, Date since last win, Age, sex, weight, colour, and weight. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.15 NEWMARKET STAKES (Amateur; £3,752; 1m 4f) (10 runners)

1 (2) 510-135 KAUBAR 21 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 Cella Radford 8 78
2 (2) 335-500 KATHER 8 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 D Martine
3 (1) 112-500 ROBERTS 12 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 D Martine
4 (2) 112-500 NORTH LION 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 Helen Cartwright 9 77
5 (2) 30 OPENING RUN 1 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 Elaine Brown
6 (2) 30 SHACKLES 21 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 Elaine Brown
7 (2) 30 VERTX 14 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 Elaine Brown
8 (2) 30 METAL OISEAU 33 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 Elaine Brown
9 (2) 30 FOXTRIT 16 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 P Pritchard Gordon 9 78
10 (1) 42-3 HIGH SAVANNAH 24 (M) 9-0 J Taylor 9-0 Elaine Brown

BETTING: 9-4 Kaubear, 9-2 Kather, 9-2 North Lion, 12-1 Opening Run, 12-1 Shackles, 12-1 Vertx, 12-1 Metal Oiseau, 12-1 Foxtrit, 12-1 High Savannah, 12-1 Taylor.

1990: TOUR EFFEL 3-10 M Amygley (4-7 fav) H Cecil 10 ran

2.45 HINTLESHAM HALL CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O; £4,142; 7f) (11 runners)

1 (2) 43-0106 UNANIMOUS 10 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 A Munro 91
2 (2) 305-320 ROBERTS 12 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 A Munro 91
3 (1) 3-005 CLOVERMILL 22 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 C Rutter 82
4 (2) 43-0202 MARTINA 30 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 R Parnham 88
5 (2) 06-054 STRAIGHT NO CHASER 18 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 R Parnham 88
6 (2) 06-054 STRAIGHT NO CHASER 18 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 R Parnham 88
7 (2) 416-000 CASPER GRAY 23 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 S O'Gorman 99
8 (2) 06-054 STRAIGHT NO CHASER 18 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 R Parnham 88
9 (2) 06-054 STRAIGHT NO CHASER 18 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 R Parnham 88
10 (2) 06-054 STRAIGHT NO CHASER 18 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 R Parnham 88

BETTING: 11 Unanimous, 9-2 Roberts, 9-2 Casper Gray, 12-1 Straight No Chaser, 12-1 Taylor, 12-1 Taylor.

1990: BLUE ROOM 7-13 R Hills (4-1 fav) R Akhurst 10 ran

3.20 EBF PEGASUS MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £4,542; 6f) (10 runners)

1 (2) BLAKE END (Tandem Ltd) W O'Gorman 9-0 T Ross
2 (2) 65 CHUMMY'S DILEMMA 3 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 G Crook
3 (2) 65 CHUMMY'S DILEMMA 3 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 G Crook
4 (2) 65 CHUMMY'S DILEMMA 3 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 G Crook
5 (2) 65 CHUMMY'S DILEMMA 3 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 G Crook
6 (2) 65 CHUMMY'S DILEMMA 3 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 G Crook
7 (2) 65 CHUMMY'S DILEMMA 3 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 G Crook
8 (2) 65 CHUMMY'S DILEMMA 3 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 G Crook
9 (2) 65 CHUMMY'S DILEMMA 3 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 G Crook
10 (2) 65 CHUMMY'S DILEMMA 3 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 G Crook

BETTING: 9-4 Sunday's Hill, 5-1 Silent Respect, 5-1 Blake End, 12-1 Taylor, 12-1 Taylor.

1990: MYSTIC 7-4 M Roberts (7-4) C Brittain 11 ran

FORM FOCUS
BLAKE END (handed Apr 24, cost £57,000) half-brother by Vindal Applet to winners in the United States.
SUNDAY'S HILL 1st 2nd on 11th July at Doncaster (1m 2f 50.00), good to June.
SUNDAY'S HILL 1st 2nd on 11th July at Doncaster (1m 2f 50.00), good to June.

NEWTON ABBOT

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	MICHAEL SEELY
2.15 Karlek Reference	2.15 Karlek Reference	2.15 Karlek Reference
2.45 Ruling Dynasty	2.45 Ruling Dynasty	2.45 Ruling Dynasty
3.15 Ashfield Boy	3.15 Ashfield Boy	3.15 Ashfield Boy
4.45 Bustamante	4.45 Bustamante	4.45 Bustamante

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.15 DIMPLEX TANGO HANDICAP CHASE (22,874; 2m 5f) (3 runners)

1 681 KARLEK REFERENCE 130 (F.G.S.) (M) 9-0 B Powell
2 114 KARLEK REFERENCE 130 (F.G.S.) (M) 9-0 B Powell
3 114 KARLEK REFERENCE 130 (F.G.S.) (M) 9-0 B Powell

BETTING: 9-4 Karlek Reference, 9-2 Karlek Reference, 9-2 Karlek Reference.

2.45 DIMPLEX SALISBURY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (1,686; 2m 150y) (12 runners)

1 250 RULING DYNASTY 48F (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 M Stoute
2 250 RULING DYNASTY 48F (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 M Stoute
3 250 RULING DYNASTY 48F (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 M Stoute

BETTING: 9-4 Ruling Dynasty, 9-2 Ruling Dynasty, 9-2 Ruling Dynasty.

3.10 VODAFONE NASSAU STAKES (Group 1; £20,335; 1m 2f) (8 runners)

301 (2) 11-511 RUBY TIGER 38 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 T Quinn
302 (2) 223-500 RUBY TIGER 38 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 T Quinn
303 (2) 223-500 RUBY TIGER 38 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 T Quinn

BETTING: 9-4 Ruby Tiger, 9-2 Ruby Tiger, 9-2 Ruby Tiger.

3.45 VODAFONE NASSAU STAKES (2-Y-O; £5,848; 6f) (7 runners)

401 (2) 10 RYAL SEATON 44 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 J Williams
402 (2) 10 RYAL SEATON 44 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 J Williams
403 (2) 10 RYAL SEATON 44 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 J Williams

BETTING: 9-4 Ryal Seaton, 9-2 Ryal Seaton, 9-2 Ryal Seaton.

4.15 TURF CLUB CLAIMING STAKES (25,368; 1m) (11 runners)

501 (2) 5125 KEMPINSKI 28 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 L Dettori
502 (2) 5125 KEMPINSKI 28 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 L Dettori
503 (2) 5125 KEMPINSKI 28 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 L Dettori

BETTING: 9-4 Kempinski, 9-2 Kempinski, 9-2 Kempinski.

4.45 SUPRICE GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O; £5,024; 1f) (3 runners)

601 (1) 50-4132 FLASHFROTH 14 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 Pat Eddery
602 (1) 50-4132 FLASHFROTH 14 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 Pat Eddery
603 (1) 50-4132 FLASHFROTH 14 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 Pat Eddery

BETTING: 9-4 Flashfroth, 9-2 Flashfroth, 9-2 Flashfroth.

5.20 TRUNDLE HANDICAP (25,160; 1m 4f) (12 runners)

1 (2) 50223-5 GULF PALACE 28 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 Ron Hills 88
2 (2) 50223-5 GULF PALACE 28 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 Ron Hills 88
3 (2) 50223-5 GULF PALACE 28 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 Ron Hills 88

BETTING: 9-4 Gulf Palace, 9-2 Gulf Palace, 9-2 Gulf Palace.

5.50 PEOPLE'S SPORTING LIFE CHAMPIONSHIP 3-Y-O HANDICAP (25,552; 1m) (8 runners)

7 (2) 149-480 TOO CONSPICUOUS 48 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 M Hills
8 (2) 149-480 TOO CONSPICUOUS 48 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 M Hills
9 (2) 149-480 TOO CONSPICUOUS 48 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 M Hills

BETTING: 9-4 Too Conspicuous, 9-2 Too Conspicuous, 9-2 Too Conspicuous.

4.20 COLMAN'S OF NORWICH NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O; £19,520; 6f) (12 runners)

1 (2) 113 KHALOOL 11 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 B Raymond
2 (2) 113 KHALOOL 11 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 B Raymond
3 (2) 113 KHALOOL 11 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 B Raymond

BETTING: 9-4 Khalool, 9-2 Khalool, 9-2 Khalool.

4.50 EXETER STAKES (2-Y-O; £5,271; 7f) (3 runners)

1 (2) 21303 SPANISH STORM 14 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 B Ryan
2 (2) 21303 SPANISH STORM 14 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 B Ryan
3 (2) 21303 SPANISH STORM 14 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 B Ryan

BETTING: 9-4 Spanish Storm, 9-2 Spanish Storm, 9-2 Spanish Storm.

MARKET RASEN

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	MICHAEL SEELY
6.15 Rosethorne	6.15 Rosethorne	6.15 Rosethorne
6.45 Ripples	6.45 Ripples	6.45 Ripples
7.15 Rosehip	7.15 Rosehip	7.15 Rosehip
7.45 Master Offbe	7.45 Master Offbe	7.45 Master Offbe

GOING: FIRM (WATERING)

6.15 START OF TERM NOVICES HURDLE (21,641; 2m 6f) (7 runners)

1 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington
2 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington
3 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington

BETTING: 9-4 Palmal, 9-2 Palmal, 9-2 Palmal.

6.45 FIRST CHANCE JUNIOR SELLING HURDLE (21,641; 2m 6f) (11 runners)

1 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington
2 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington
3 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington

BETTING: 9-4 Palmal, 9-2 Palmal, 9-2 Palmal.

6.45 FIRST CHANCE JUNIOR SELLING HURDLE (21,641; 2m 6f) (11 runners)

1 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington
2 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington
3 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington

BETTING: 9-4 Palmal, 9-2 Palmal, 9-2 Palmal.

6.45 FIRST CHANCE JUNIOR SELLING HURDLE (21,641; 2m 6f) (11 runners)

1 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington
2 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington
3 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington

BETTING: 9-4 Palmal, 9-2 Palmal, 9-2 Palmal.

6.45 FIRST CHANCE JUNIOR SELLING HURDLE (21,641; 2m 6f) (11 runners)

1 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington
2 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington
3 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington

BETTING: 9-4 Palmal, 9-2 Palmal, 9-2 Palmal.

6.45 FIRST CHANCE JUNIOR SELLING HURDLE (21,641; 2m 6f) (11 runners)

1 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington
2 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington
3 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington

BETTING: 9-4 Palmal, 9-2 Palmal, 9-2 Palmal.

6.45 FIRST CHANCE JUNIOR SELLING HURDLE (21,641; 2m 6f) (11 runners)

1 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington
2 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington
3 105 PALMAL 56 (C.D.F.S.) (M) 9-0 W Worthington

